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Soviet Union

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COMMENTATORS DISCUSS PROSPECTS AT JANUARY TALKS

Sturua on U.S. Stance

PM281737 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 5

[Melor Sturua article: "Signaling -- Weinberger-Style"]

[Text] What can you say about a person who comes to a meeting armed with a heavy nightstick and, moreover, claims that it is a bouquet of roses? What can you say about a person who turns up at a party with a Colt revolver thrust into his belt and tries, moreover, to convince the people around him that it is a bottle of fine old whiskey? Well, first, that he is belligerent and cocky. And second -- that he is at least insincere.

In society, such people pose a heightened threat to those around them. This is completely natural. But what if these are the characteristic features of an individual whose jurisdication extends to forces capable of causing a world catastrophe? Let us say outright that it becomes somehow discomforting.

The above-mentioned individual is no abstraction. He is very real. We are talking about Caspar Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of defense. The Pentagon chief again displayed these rather disagreeable character traits during a recent press conference that he held on his ancestral estate on the Potomac. According to the preliminary drafts, these budgets [as published] recall a three-stage rocket boosting the arms race into a still more grandiose orbit (fiscal 1986 -- $313.7 billion; 1987 -- $362.6 billion; 1988 -- $411 billion).

One newsman asked Weinberger: "Couldn't you tell us what sort of signal, in your opinion, this budget gives the Russians?" Without a moment's hesitation, the secretary -- he had already perfected this to the point of automatism -- made the nightstick pass for the bouquet of roses. He replied that the increase in the U.S. military budget signals Washington's determination "to preserve and maintain peace." In order to avoid possible misinterpretations, Weinberger snapped out (no wonder they call him "Cap the Knife"): "I consider that our budget gives precisely such a signal, and I believe that a freeze or zero growth...would convey completely the wrong, totally opposite signal."

The signals game evidently interested the newsmen. And so the next question followed: "Speaking of signals, I would like to recall yesterday's announcement by General Abel that military flights by the shuttle will be kept secret. Doesn't this convey some kind of signal to the Russians? Doesn't this appear provocative to you in the sense that we are planning.... "The questioner was evidently trying to say that the United States is planning preparations to wage so-called "star wars." But Weinberger interrupted him with a categorical "No, I don't think so," passing off the cosmic Colt for the fine old Scotch whiskey.

We resorted to the whiskey comparison with a definite intent. A little farther on you will understand wherein this intent lies. But now for the "star wars." The course toward the militarization of space proclaimed by Washington is generating increasing alarm among the world public. A cogent example of this is provided by the resolution adopted by the 39th UN General Assembly session, which demands that space be excluded from the sphere of the arms race. As you know, this resolution was submitted on the initiative of the Soviet Union and was approved by an absolute majority of UN member-states. One hundred and fifty countries voted for it. Only the United States did not support this decision, which meets the aspirations of the peoples of the entire world. Even Washington's NATO allies are voicing their undisguised misgivings in connection with the "star wars" project. In particular, such anxiety was expressed the other day by the British prime minister, Margaret Thatcher.

Weinberger was asked about this at the press conference. But the great signal-juggling expert was quite unperturbed. "I must correct you here," he said, "it seemed just like that to me when I read the headlines and ever the first paragraph. But after I had read the text through to the end, I was convinced that it was not so. Do you want to add anything?" The newsman who had asked the qeustion did indeed. He said: "If you will permit me: Mrs. Thatcher said in essence that she is uneasy about the fact that these initiatives may transform space into a new, terrible theater of military operations. If you implement your so-called 'star wars' program, does it not seem to you that such a probability will exist?" Passing off the nightstick as the bouquet of roses and the Colt as the whiskey, Caspar Weinberger said without batting an eyelid: "No, in my opinion precisely the reverse will occur."

Here it is even difficult to speak of any logic in the normal sense of the word. There is a different logic here -- the logic of those who pass off an arms race in space as the road to peace on earth. This is far from accidental. As you know, the Soviet Union recently came out with the initiative to hold talks with the United States on the whole range of issues relating to nuclear and space armaments. On the basis of this initiative, agreement was reached with the U.S. Administration to enter into completely new negotiations that would embrace both the question of the nonmilitarization of space and also questions of reducing nuclear armaments -- strategic and medium-range. Moreover, they are all to be examined and settled in the context of their interdependence. Key significance here is attached to prohibiting a space arms race. Once such a race was under way, not only would it be dangerous in itself but it would also fuel an arms race along other salients.

The apologists of the arms race are perfectly well aware of the key provision of prohibiting "star wars." It is for precisely this reason that they are directing aimed fire against the nonmilitarization of space. "Signalman" Weinberger is in the front ranks of the attackers of space targets. Addressing that same press conference, "Cap the knife" said: "The Strategic Defense Initiative (that is, preparations for 'star wars' -- M.S.) is an exceptionally important part of our strategic plans and policy for the future. This is an initiative mooted by the President, and the objections leveled at it are chiefly dictated by the fact that it does not fit into a generally accepted framework [ramki]. I have been working with the President for quite some time now, and I can say that he is simply an expert at infringing on the generally accepted framework and that he does this very successfully and well. I do not get the impression that the strategic defense system that he has been advocating for over 2 years is provoking the clear disapproval of the American people. I am forming just the opposite impression."

Once again, for the umpteenth time, the Pentagon chief is falsifying the signals. On this occasion, those transmitted by the American public. The latest results of coast-to-coast opinion polls carried out by specialists in this field, R. Kingston and D. Yankelovich, testify that the majority of Americans welcomes the agreement on new talks between the United States and the Soviet Union on arms control issues. They indicate that 96 percent of Americans believe that the United States and the Soviet Union must not resolve their contradictions by military means, and that 92 percent of U.S. citizens are convinced that the United States is not in a position to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union, while 76 percent of those polled voiced the opinion that the Washington administration bears a considerable share of the responsibility for the deterioration of Soviet-American relations and the fueling of international tension.

But clearly, these people do not fit the framework accepted in the Washington corridors of power where, in the worlds of the local wits, the order "Take aim!" is uttered not before but after the order "Open fire!" -- that is, the policy of military diktat precedes diplomacy. This is not simply a matter of regret, it is a matter of danger. The falsification of signals is fraught with catastrophe. And not only in the realm of transport.

Kalyagin on USSR Readiness

LD292032 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 29 Dec 84

[From the "World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] During the final days of the outgoing year it is traditional for the press around the world to do a summary and single out the most important and typical events. This year the two main and radically opposed directions in international politics stood out with special vividness. As a consequence of the escalation in the arms race conducted by the United States, the threat of nuclear war grew and the trust in interstate relations was undermined. This course was opposed by the foreign policy activity of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, which want a curb on the arms race and to reach specific agreements that would lead to a real reduction in the threat of war.

The peaceful Soviet initiatives are being met with growing understanding and approval by the world community. Clear evidence of this is the outcome of the 39th UN General Assembly session. There the constructive Soviet proposals were supported by the majority of states. At the same time, the United States and its closest NATO allies found themselves virtually in complete isolation many times. The antiwar forces in the world grew and strengthened so much that Western ruling circles now have to take them into consideration. Now Washington talks of its intention to seek agreement with the Soviet Union. However, as before, these words are not supported by any practical actions.

Now international public attention is focused on the meeting on 7-8 January 1985 between Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, USSR minister of foreign affairs, and George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state. As is known, this meeting is being held on Soviet initiative. At the meeting there is to be discussion of the new Soviet-American talks aimed at reaching mutually acceptable agreements [dogovorennosti] on the whole complex of questions concerning nuclear and space armaments. The problems of the nonpermissibility of space militarization has particular significance for the fate of the world. As Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko has noted, the realities of life today are such that armaments-free space is now one of the obligatory conditions for lasting peace in the world. The militarization of space -- unless realiably curbed -- will undo everything that has been agreed upon so far in the sphere of arms limitation. In the meantime, it is known that the United States is developing and creating various kinds of space armaments, and as well as antimissile defense system with space-based elements. The Pentagon strategists are thus hoping to be able to make nuclear strikes against the other side and avoid retribution.

These dangerous plans are causing concern inside the United States as well as among U.S. allies. Many West European politicians support the view expressed by McNamara, the former U.S. secretary of defense, and three other former high-ranking U.S. officials in an article published in the latest issue of the FOREIGN AFFAIRS journal. They level criticism against Reagan's space plans, pointing out that to put these plans into practice would signify a new and extremely dangerous twist in the arms race. The SANKEI SHIMBUN newspaper in Japan writes that according to authoritative scientists and experts, the efficiency of the White House space program is doubtful, while its implementation will merely result in the liquidation of the existing working agreement [deystvennoye soglasheniye] between the USSR and the United States regarding the limitation of antimissile systems. In the words of that newspaper, there are strong fears in West Europe that Washington would not mind starting a limited nuclear war on West European territory, while using the space shield to hide from retaliatory strike itself. West European officials are also concerned that U.S. actions will force the Soviet Union to undertake countermeasures. They recall the history of creating multiple warhead missiles by the United States in the late sixties.

Then the Nixon administration rejected the Soviet proposal to reciprocally ban these missiles, hoping to gain military superiority. But it is well known that our country quickly created analogous technology.

Washington's hopes to gain military superiority in space are eqully ill-founded. However, in this case the military balance will be reached on a rather higher and more dangerous level. Therefore, our government calls for an eternal ban on the use of force in space. We are ready for the most radical solutions that would allow putting an end to the arms race. It is up to the Washington administration.

Kondrashov Commentary

LD281953 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 28 Dec 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video talk by political observor Stanislav Kondrashov]

[Text] Hello there, comrades. As the old year turns into the new, one is more acutely aware of the passage of time, and such key notions connected with man and time as life, war, and peace. Yes, peace. This extremely commonplace word remains the main thing. You just can't get away from it when you look at the ebbing year. What has been done in this sphere? Peace has of course been preserved if you consider relations between the great powers. But has it become more stable or even more fragile?

The new year signals farewells and meetings, high spirited expectations as to the future, and a sober assessment of the past year. Another assessment. What do we see? Hundreds of billions more dollars spent on the arms race. Although less has been said than a year ago about the American nuclear missiles in West Europe, the missiles themselves have greatly grown in number. The level of nuclear missile confrontation has gone up.

As far as Soviet-American talks on the reduction of nuclear armaments -- that path to peace -- are concerned, let me remind you that they were wrecked over a year ago because of the deadlock created by Washington. The result was that the departing year of 1984, the whole year, was a kind of anxious hiatus in East-West talks. That, too, is a fact. The hiatus was filled by the American side with plans and first steps in the sphere of so-called space defence, or, to be more precise, space militarization.

The Soviet Union continued its dogged and consistent struggle against the arms race and opposed this growing threat of truly astronomical dimensions. The Soviet proposals for averting the militarization of space were backed by practically the whole of the world community in the outgoing year, with the exception of the United States. That is also a fact.

The hiatus in talks was also filled by the American side with peace-loving assurances by the American President, who was trying for a second term in office. He was duly reelected, and now the time is approaching for checking the meaning and sincerity of these assurances. It is from this point of view that the world looks to Geneva, where at the beginning of January, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko and George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, are to meet to begin fresh talks on a package of interrelated issues to do with the nonmilitarization of space and the reduction of nuclear armaments.

This is the main question we address to the new year: Will the new hopes survive? From the viewpoint of dispassionate science, a year is just an interval of time equal to the period of revolution of the planet earth around the sun. From the point of view of politics? It is to be hoped that another revolution of the earth around the sun will also mark headway towards the consolidation of peace on earth.

Beglov Questions Sincerity

LD290049 Moscow World Service in English 2110 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Commentary by NOVOSTI news analyst Spartak Beglov]

[Text] In the West the Christmas holidays were marred by Washington's new claims to develop and deploy weaponry in space. The traditional Santa Claus with his wishes of peace, goodness, and happiness was moved aside by the announcement of the Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger that the United States did not intend to give up the plan of star wars.

A news analyst for the NOVOSTI press agency, Spartak Beglov, makes these comments: The categoric form of Weinberger's announcement increases the doubts of the public about the sincerity of the United States' desire to promote the new talks with the Soviet Union on the entire range of issues related to nuclear and space arms. The West European allies of the United States also noted this. Frenchman, West Germans, and Britons have made it clear that they are also interested in the outcome of the future talks and that they are alarmed about the plan of star wars.

Although the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher acted in line with the requirements of allied discipline and solidarity during her recent visit to Washington, she also made it understood that her support for the programme of so-called scientific studies in the sphere of space weapons did not definitely mean support for the system's deployment. The French President Mitterrand spoke against star wars. It is easy to understand the feelings of West European countries. The United States intends to deploy a system to defend its own territory and leave its NATO allies to the mercy of fate. In case of a nuclear conflict Washington wants the retaliatory strike to be directed against them.

The prospect becomes even more threatening because American first-strike nuclear missiles are stationed in Britain, Federal Germany, and Italy. Their launching would lead to inevitable retribution. The fact that Washington has again spoke in defense of the star wars concept shows that it wants to make its allies nuclear hostages.

There is one more alarming thing. Caspar Weinberger said that the idea of star wars was not to be discussed in Geneva. This logically leads to the conclusion that the United States still wants to reach military superiority over the Soviet Union and build its own security by undermining the security of the USSR.

Bogachev Previews Talks

LD291945 Moscow TASS in English 1907 GMT 29 Dec 84

["U.S. Plans in Outer Space Threaten World Peace" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow December 29 TASS -- TASS military writer Vladimir Bogachev writes:

According to American press reports, heated discussion was under way in top echelons of the U.S. Administration during the past few weeks on instructions which are to be given to the Secretary of State George Shultz before his Geneva meeting with USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko. It was noted that the delay with elaboration of the American stand at the coming meeting of the statesmen of the two countries was caused by difference between some representatives of the Reagan administration.

In an interview which was printed today by the Japanese newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, President Reagan announced that the U.S. secretary of state would come for the meeting with concrete proposals on a broad range of problems of control over armaments.

What is this stand of the United States that they in Washington spent so much time, elaborating it? A whole number of high-placed representatives of the government, including Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, a few days ago diffusely set forth the U.S. stand on problems of space armaments. The chief of the Pentagon stated that the United States would not give up its plans of development of a broad-scale anti-missile defence system of space basing mode or the possibility to deploy such a system. This means that the U.S. Administration intends to derail the USSR-USA termless treaty on limitation of anti-ballistic missile systems which prohibits deployment of ABM systems or even ABM elements in outer space.

The treaty on the limitation of the ABM systems, in the opinion of the overwhelming number of specialists in the West and the East, is now the most reliable and efficient barrier to spreading the arms race to outer space. Judging by pronouncements of Weinberger, Rober McFarlane and other Washington representatives, the United States is going to press for the Soviet Union's consent to legislation of the arms race in outer space, it seeks to convince the Soviet side that the buildup of armaments in the near-earth space will allegedly "strengthen stability and reduce the risk of war." If these are really the aims and directions of Washington at the Geneva meeting, these can mean only one thing: the attempt to attain military superiority this time through outer space, but this also lacks prospects, just as similar attempts on earth.

Development of a broad-scale ABM system of space-basing mode, according to "Reagan's initiative in the sphere of strategic defense," has the aim to cover the U.S. territory from retaliatiory strike of retribution in case of staging by the United States a nuclear aggression against countries of the socialist community. In Washington they do not conceal now, too, that creation of the space ABM system will be accompanied by intensive strategic armaments. And this will naturally add to the threat of a catastrophic nuclear war. According to the Pentagon's calculations, deployment of the American ABM system of space-basing mode is to make decision on U.S. hitting the first nuclear strike "more admissible, acceptable and even rational". The Pentagon representative Fred Ikle earlier made a statement that realisation of Washington's space plans would allegedly lead to transferring war to where there are no people. This fantastic fabrication is turned down by all competent specialists, including American. Wars in outer space -- this is not the alternative to war on earth. Star wars are only a prelude to war on earth, stated prominent American scientist Richard Garvin.

U.S. PLANS FOR SPACE MILITARIZATION DISCUSSED

No Change in U.S. Stance

PM311142 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Dec 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Still the Same Stance..."]

[Text] New York, 28 Dec -- Addressing a press conference in California, a White House representative replied negatively to the question of whether there are changes in President R. Reagan's stance regarding the program for the militarization of space, which the United States describes as an "initiative" in the strategic defense sphere. "The administration does not intend to change its stance," he said.

The so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative" is essentially aimed at "upsetting the entire process of arms control as a result of canceling the treaty on limiting ABM systems, developing a new round in the offensive arms race, and extending the arms race to space." This conclusion is contained in a book published here entitled "Lies and Star Wars," which has been prepared by a group of experts belonging to the authoritative organization -- the League of Concerned Scientists.

The book's authors, who include R. Garwin and Nobel prizewinner H. Bethe, former members of the U.S. President's Science Advisory Committee; K. Gottfried, prominent nuclear physicists; C. Sagan, professor of astronomy and space sciences; and Admiral N. Gayler retired, stress that the "ABM defenses conceived by the Reagan administration are clearly incompatible with the 1972 treaty on limiting ABM defenses." The implementation of the Reagan "star wars" plans, the authors write, will mean the "end of the treaty on limiting ABM systems." As a result, the situation in the world will be aggravated even further and the threat of nuclear war will increase.

U.S. Preoccupied With Plans

LD302034 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Dec 84

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Text] A British MP has spoken of the particular danger of plans to militarize space. However, if you listen to President Reagan, the initiator of these plans, it turns out that the crux of the matter is not the new danger, but the saving of mankind from Damocles' nuclear sword, alleged to be poised over us now, hanging by a thread.

A week ago, journalists asked the President: What can you say about the criticism of star wars by the Russians? The President replied that the Russians, as he put it, do not altogether understand what the whole matter is all about, adding: We will willingly tell them what, concretely, it is all about.

However, the persistent journalist asked a second question: However, Mitterrand and Thatcher are also concerned about it. The President replied that he was also ready to explain the essence of his program. Apparently, it is necessary to explain it to the whole world as well: After all, 150 states voted during the UN General Assembly session for the resolution on the use of space exclusively for peaceful purposes, for the benefit of mankind. The U.S. delegation found itself completely isolated.

However, the President's explanation is as follows: Peace is currently kept on the basis of the concept of containment [sederzhivaniye] and the threat to wipe out millions of people: a balance of fear. The Strategic Defense Initiative is proposed as a replacement. It will, allegedly, make missiles obsolete, by guaranteeing complete defense against them and people will be able to sleep peacefully. If everything were that simple, U.S. allies would not have been concerned and the world, instead of being alarmed, would be overjoyed. In fact, there is no military-technical response to the nuclear threat, nor can there be such a response. As the sad joke goes: If an anti-missile will be made to counteract the missile, then an anti-missile will be made to counteract the antimissile and an anti-anti-antimissile will be made to counteract the anti-antimissile and so forth, ad infinitum; action will cause a reaction.

As for the issue of who fails to understand what, let me cite the view of THE NEW YORK TIMES which in its Thursday editorial wrote the following: Reagan incorrectly understands the essence of the situation around defense as being in the spirit of star wars. As distinct from the landing on the moon -- which was merely a struggle against the law of gravity -- a shield in the spirit of star wars would give rise to decisive countermeasures on the part of the Soviet Union.

This U.S. preoccupation with space arms was the main subject of last Saturday's meeting between Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. Thatcher, like other European allies of the United States, was against spreading the arms race to space. Reagan attempted to persuade her of his good intentions. He managed to secure her support for U.S. research in this area -- but, as before, she is against development of space arms and, more likely, she favors talks on this subject.

This half-heartedness is dangerous inasmuch as having once given approval to the first steps, one may well end up having to face the accomplished fact of the subsequent steps. A specter is beginning to take shape here, resembling NATO's two-track decision, which recalls a sorry memory: to hold talks and arm yourself, where talks boil down to being just a screen.

In general, alarm in Europe continues unabated. It is clear to the Europeans that the United States thinks of itself, first and foremost.

World Leaders Oppose Plan

LD302055 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1500 GMT 30 Dec 84

[From the "International Panorama" program presented by Gennadiy Gerasimov]

[Text] In the major spheres of East-West relations diplomacy was in a state of paralysis for many months due to the fact that the Washington administration was primarily engaged in efforts to achieve reelection for a second 4-year term. These black colors, though, are of course only a part of the picture.

Let us correct the perspective and recall the dimensions of the antiwar movement, the peaceful initiatives that we counterposed to the militarist passions of the West, and 60-odd resolutions on disarmament that were submitted for consideration at the UN General Assembly and adopted by it.

It is interesting that regardless of the assessments of the year's results -- and these differ, insofar as they are politically conditioned -- the new year is being greeted with a rare unanimity. I shall cite, for example, the following pronouncement: We are entering 1985 with brighter prospects for further development of relations between East and West. This is the opinion of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. There are many such utterances.

Even if one admits that optimism is premature here, and that what is desired is being made out to be the reality, the formulation of the desire itself reflects the anxiety of Western politicians that the grievous legacy of 1984 might stretch into the new year. They all want to distance themselves from it.

Everything, however, depends on what sort of a mood prevails in Washington. The present New Year boundary has become a moment of choice for the United States: whether it is ready for it is a question of great importance that has not yet been answered. The U.S. allies would like the United States to choose in favor of common sense.

Sandro Pertini, the Italian president, for instance, recalling the wartime cooperation between the Soviet Union and the United States, asks the following question: If the two great powers joined together then against fascism, why should they not now cooperate for the sake of saving universal peace? And indeed why not, for nuclear catastrophe is our common enemy.

PRAVDA on Initial Stage of Program

PM281425 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 84 First Edition p 5

[G. Vasilyev dispatch: "United States: Space Fever"]

[Text] Washington, 21 Dec -- The very brief report buried on one of the back pages of THE NEW YORK TIMES spoke volumes. A correspondent of the ASSOCIATED PRESS agency was reporting that the U.S. Defense Department had presented arms manufacturers with the first 10 contracts for the implementation of the program mooted by President Reagan in his "star wars" speech March last year and aimed at the deployment of an extensive antimissile defense system incorporating space-based elements.

Although these orders are actually designated "experimental research" and amount to a mere $10 million, a fact is a fact: The U.S. Administration has moved on to the practical implementation of its most dangerous enterprise -- the creation of a so-called "antimissile umbrella." After covering themselves with this umbrella and building up their first-strike potential, the "hotheads" on the banks of the Potomac hope to achieve an ever more unattainable goal -- the acquisition of decisive military superiority over the socialist countries.

The list of those who have received the first millions of dollars is eloquent enough. It reads like a roll call of the giants of the U.S. aerospace business: Lockheed, Hughes Aircraft, Martin Marietta, McDonnell Douglas, Rockwell International, TRW, and so on. You can just imagine the animation currently reigning in the offices of the military monopolies. The millions must be followed by billions. Because the sum of $62 billion is being projected for expenditure solely related to the first stage of work on creating an "all-embracing" ABM system. While the realization of the entire program, in the assessment of experts, will cost a trillion dollars.

The Pentagon is straining to get into space. Despite its "peace-loving" statements, the U.S. Administration is taking new steps toward the militarization of space and is giving the arms race an additional twist. Testing of a missile launched from an F-15 fighter and armed with a warhead designed to destroy satellites took place at Vandenberg AFB in California in mid-November. A decision was made at the beginning of December on setting up a Joint Space Command endowed with extensive powers which extend both to the progress of experimental work and the direct utilization of military space systems. In the wake of this it was announced that the launch of the reusable spacecraft Discovery, scheduled for January, will pursue purely military goals.

This latter development is accompanied by downright Draconian measures to hush up absolutely everything. At a special Pentagon conference, General Richard Abel told newsmen that divulgence by the press of any information whatever about shuttle program flights will be viewed as high treason.

But even the densest veil of secrecy is unable to conceal the main fact: U.S. space programs are increasingly being subordinated to the aims of preparing for war. Peaceful research is being cut back in the interests of developing purely military programs. Generals are taking the place of scientists at the control consoles of the space launches. The militarization of space has become an important element in the Reagan administraiton's general course aimed at "rearming America."

It is endeavoring to bewitch Americans with the "star wars" prospect by depicting the future of the space battle as the Hollywood film incarnate -- highly colorful, fascinating, and not inflicting any suffering on those "valiant sons of America" taking part in the fighting.

"The era of space wars is already upon us," announces the U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, which has close ties to military circles. The paper's glossy cover displays a magical picture of military stations soaring in the deep blue of outer space, crisscrossing laser beams, and exploding "enemy targets." "This is by no means science fiction," the article says. "High above our planet the militarization of space is proceeding at an ever accelerating tempo."

The article's authors suggest to their readers that the question of space militarization has already been decided, that there is no sense in resisting it. The Pentagon has already begun extensive research work "on creating within the next decade operational [boyevoy] orbital stations capable of waging war in space, and laser and particle bean weapons..." The paper reports that on Discovery's January flight the usual crew members will be joined by "one of the elite military astronauts being trained under cover of secrecy in line with preparations for war in space." The Pentagon is energetically recruiting from among all branches of the Armed Forces with a view to establishing entire subunits of space mercenaries.

The backers of the military-industrial complex are shamelessly deceiving Americans by suggesting that the deployment of weapons in space is virtually a "path to peace" inasmuch, as they say, it "makes military operations less dangerous" and switches them from the earth into the boundless interplanetary expanses.

However, even today there are not a few people in the United States, famous scientists, political figures, and former prominent members of the military among them, who realize the incalculable calamities with which the militarization of space threatens mankind and who are calling for a barrier to be erected on this dangerous path before it is too late. "An arms race in space," Howard (Ris), executive director of the League of Concerned Scientists, writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES, "is evidently more dangerous for the United States since we place greater reliance on satellites than the Russians do. Military rivalry in space increases the possibility of nuclear war." The scientist calls for businesslike Soviet-American talks aimed at prohibiting the testing and deployment of space weapons. He urges the U.S. Administration to abandon its "star wars" program since as its implementation will undermine the hopes of millions of people for the achievement of accords on curbing nuclear armaments.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

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["International Observers Roundtable" program, with Igor Pavlovich Charikov, All-Union Radio foreign policy commentator; Vladimir Borisovich Lomeyko, head of the Foreign Ministry Press Department; and Viktor Aleksandrovich Tsoppi, NOVOYE VREMYA observer]

1984 U.S., USSR Policies

[Text] [Charikov] Hello, esteemed comrades. This program is the last under the heading International Observers Round able to be broadcast in the departing year, and it is quite natural that the main topic of our discussion today will be an analysis and an appraisal of the main political results of the year, the directions along which the development of events in the world has moved. The first thing that should be said, bearing in mind the year's results, is the fact that it has been a very complicated and tense year. Its complexity lay in the fact that active confrontation has been taking place between two foreign policy concepts, two approaches to the solution of international problems. On the one hand there has been the peace-loving policy of our party and government, the purpose of which is to return international development to the channel of detente, and to create conditions under which any complicated issue would be able to be solved by peaceful means.

On the other hand this course has been constantly opposed by the imperialist circles of the United States who have been carrying out with even greater frankness their course toward the achievement of military superiority over the Soviet Union and toward undermining the efforts of the USSR in normalizing the situation in the world. It is sufficient to recall the foreign policy platform of the ruling Republican Party in the United States, the platform which it took to its preelection convention. Confrontation, therefore, has been taking place in every direction. Upon us, the Soviet Union, the other socialist countries, and the whole world, Washington has been trying to impose its own rules of the game, its own norms, so to speak, for conducting international affairs, and to legitimize something that the entire previous experience of mankind permits one to call antihumane and immoral.

Our country has set its own position against these actions and against the manifestations of the imperialist ambitions of the United States. I am not going to enumerate them, they are sufficiently well known. Our country has put forward a whole set of realistic, constructive, and, no less important, timely initiatives.

39th UN Session

[Lomeyko] There was deep and telling discussion of these initiatives at the United Nations during the 39th General Assembly session, which ended recently. You have been talking about the complex nature of the departing year, Igor Pavlovich. This complexity has also been felt within the walls of the United Nations. It is not all that simple to pick out the main features of the departing year, the more so in view of the fact that it has been filled with so many different and contradictory events. Yet there are, in my view, some indicators of world feeling, and one of the most important of these, as has been noted, was the 39th UN session which has just ended.

Why? It is generally known that the United Nations is a unique forum of the international community. It is a kind of world assembly in which each nation has its own voice and, irrespective of size and power, has its say on equal terms with the others. This is what is significant. Given the great variety of the states represented in the United Nations, the overwhelming majority of them considered that the problems that were the most important for them were the ones that our party and state have been speaking of as being of prime importance for many years: staving off the threat of nuclear war and curbing the arms monster.

I had occasion to be present at the 39th General Assembly session in New York, and I well remember the attention and interest with which the delegates of all countries listened to the speech by Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko. The proposals that he put forward on behalf of the Soviet Union were at the center of the discussions. The session adopted more than 60 decisions aimed at weakening the threat of nuclear war, ending the arms race and reducing armaments, and strengthening confidence between states. The Soviet Union and the other socialist countries were the initiators of many important decisions on these problems. These decisions were given the widest support by an overwhelming, let me stress, by an overwhelming number of member-states of the United Nations Organization.

Here is something else that is very important, also. The voting on the most important decisions showed clearly the political face of many states. In 26 cases the United States, with a small group of its allies, voted against these decisions; but in 10 cases the United States was essentially the only state voting against. This is not simply statistics; it is evidence, if you like, of the isolation of the U.S. foreign policy course on cardinal problems of the present day. The proposal of the Soviet Union aimed at preventing the militarization of space received virtually unanimous support. The requirement that states should reject the use of force in their activities in space was formulated for the first time in a General Assembly document. The resolution on this issue was supported by all states except the United States. It was supported by even the closest allies of the United States, who demonstrated, at the same time, their unwillingness to be associated with the Pentagon's militarist plans regarding the sixth ocean. I would particularly like to note the fact that our country's idea about the establishment of definite norms for relations between nuclear powers, an idea that was put forward by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, found support in a number of resolutions. Doctrines of limited nuclear war were also condemned. Those taking part in the session once again called upon the United States and its allies that possess nuclear weapons to follow the Soviet Union's example and pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. The assembly also came out resolutely in favor of freezing nuclear weapons, and of starting step-by-step nuclear disarmament, the ultimate aim of which would be the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

Member-states of the United Nations gave powerful support to the Soviet proposal containing a call for the policy of state terrorism and any actions by states aimed at undermining the social and political system in other sovereign states to be outlawed, while Washington and its closest allies have refused to support this very important UN decision; does not this fact show clearly to the whole world just where the source of the policy and practice of state terrorism is to be found? In the course of the discussions, concrete manifestations of this kind of policy and practice -- the American occupation of Grenada, the undeclared war of the United States against Nicaragua, and its interference in the affairs of other countries in Central America -- were subjected to condemnation.

The departing year has not been indifferent to the positions of different countries on the Middle East. The basic points put forward in the summer of 1984 in the Soviet Union's proposal on a Middle East settlement were reflected in the resolutions of the General Assembly session. The call for the convening of an international conference in which all interested parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, would take part, with the purpose of achieving an all-embracing settlement in that region, has again been confirmed. If one takes into consideration the extent of the political energy and resources that Washington has directed toward maintaining the failing Camp David spirit, these results are particularly noteworthy. They are evidence of the fact that there can be no peace in the Middle East without justice.

It is important to mention yet another factor of the departing year. It has shown that mankind's indignation against the spirit and cause of fascism has not grown cold.

The results of the 39th UN General Assembly session are evidence of the fact that the overwhelming majority of countries are recognizing more and more precisely the need for concrete, practical steps to be taken urgently to remove the threat of nuclear war and to consolidate peace on our planet and in the space that surrounds it.

[Charikov] In other words, Vladimir Borisovich, one can say that the results of the 39th General Assembly session were far from being to the advantage of the American diplomacy. We are now witnesses of the way in which expressions of discontent are being voiced more and more frequently against this international organization in the White House. Attempts are being made to undermine its foundation. Viktor Aleksandrovich, what do you have to say?

U.S. Foreign Policy

[Tsoppi] I should indeed like to develop your thought about the isolation of the United States, both in the United Nations and in general in the world community. A few days ago the American newspaper INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, which is published in Paris for Europeans, published the following cartoon: Some kind of structure, the outlines of which are wrong, stands out on the base of a globe -- is it a hunk of bread? Is it a grand piano standing on just one leg instead of three? When you examine it very closely it becomes clear that this is, in fact, our own planet, but a planet from which everything that is superfluous has been cut away by an artificial scalpel, everything except the United States of America. This figure is, indeed, the United States of America. There is no Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, Central America, or Middle East: In a word, an ideal globe, in which no one threatens American vital interests and in which no one challenges their divine destiny.

The artist's fantasy really isn't so very far removed from the realities of U.S. foreign policy. From 1 January, for example, the United States ceases to be a member of UNESCO -- the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. UNESCO was founded in 1946, soon after the war; in its constitution, among the signatories of which was the United States, the organization's task was defined thus: "to achieve gradually, with the cooperation of the states of the whole world in the sphere of education, science, and culture, such aims as international peace and the universal prosperity of mankind."

By quitting UNESCO now, the United States has given what amounts to a very vivid demonstration that these are not their aims -- something we already had ample proof of anyway. UNESCO is engaged, for example, in abolishing illiteracy in the developing countries -- but for Washington, this serves no purpose. Illiterate masses and politically semiliterate people are so much easier to govern. As for the publishing of textbooks, which is one of UNESCO's activities, the United States also has achievements to show in that field -- such as, for instance, the manual for the counter-revolutionaries in Nicaragua.

In effect, the U.S. withdrawal from UNESCO -- as the well-known French political figure Jean-Pierre Cot, for example, considers -- is evidence that the target of the Americans is not just UNESCO, but the whole system of the United Nations. However, the main thing is that Washington's New Year present, which I have just been talking about, testifies to its intention to smash the very world order that emerged after the victory over Hitlerism, and subvert the possibilities of cooperation among states in conditions of peaceful coexistence.

Also in the service of a frankly ugly objective are the strident calls for revision of the Yalta and Potsdam Agreements and for a reunification of Germany by allowing West Germany to swallow up the GDR, actions that are directed toward rearming and remilitarizing Japan, and much else besides. It must be said that among the governments of the Western countries there are quite a few that are very amenable to the pressure from beyond the ocean.

The ruling coalition in West Germany has taken no notice of the opinion of the majority of the population, which was categorically opposed to the U.S. nuclear missiles. The Governments of Italy and Britain have behaved just as meekly and submissively.

Recently, the ruling Socialist Workers' Party in Spain renounced its opposition to the country's membership of NATO. The reason given for this fundamental change was that Spain's membership in the military and political organization of the North Atlantic Treaty, headed by the United States, would facilitiate her entry into the Common Market, which, in turn, would relieve all sorts of economic difficulties and ease Spain's burden. So the neutrality that the socialists promised the Spaniards when they went to the polls in 1977 is being sold for the cake of the Common Market. Although they say the cake has a bomb in it.

Disarmament; Shultz-Gromyko Talks

[Charikov] Coming back to our question as to what have been the main features of the last year, I think we should return once again to the question of stopping the arms race, and to disarmament. In this sphere, our country has repeatedly put forward various initiatives. The appeal to the U.S. leadership to show some realism at last, to become aware of the disastrous consequences that the senseless and destructive buildup of weapon arsenals will bring in its wake, has sounded time and again in the utterances of the officials of our party and state. The Soviet Union has proposed to the U.S. Administration that the two sides should begin talks on the whole range of interrelated questions concerning nonmilitarization of space, and reducation of strategic nuclear armaments and medium-range nuclear weapons. In a conversation with Kinnock, leader of the British Labor Party, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko stressed that the Soviet Union is willing, in all these areas, to seek the most radical solutions, which will enable us to move forward toward the total banning and, ultimately, abolition of nuclear weapons. You see then, comrades, what a far-reaching aim is contained in the Soviet proposal to start new talks with the U.S. leadership. The desire of the Soviet Union to move from words to deeds in the matter of disarmament has been expressed sufficiently, and at a sufficiently authoritative level, to be taken seriously.

[Lomeyko] As the Soviet leaders have many times emphasized in their statements, we have been, and remain, in favor of talks -- but on the only rational and honest basis: the basis of equality and equal security. The Soviet Union has no need of military superiority, but will not allow anyone to gain superiority over it. In a few days' time, on 7 and 8 January, 1985, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, the USSR foreign minister, and George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, will be meeting in Geneva. At that meeting, they will define a joint understanding of the subject and aims of the new talks. Reactions from all the world's capitals show that people are looking to Geneva with heightened attention and intense expectation. As for the Soviet Union, it is for achieving, on a basis of the principles of equality and equal security, mutually acceptable and radical accords that will at last stop the continuous military conveyor belt and eventually reverse it. While expressing hopes for a new beginning of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue, many sober-minded politicians in the world are pointing with alarm to the continuing militaristic frenzy of the Pentagon.

Worldwide Antiwar Movement

[Tsoppi] I should like to come in here with another not unimportant argument: the anti-military, antimissile movement, which has assumed an unprecedented scope. I would say that it has intensified directly in proportion to the degree to which the international situation has become complicated. History has never before known such massive, representatively constituted, politically mature demonstrations in the countries of Western Europe. I think, it is the very scope of this movement, which even those figures in the West who had previously refrained from direct public statements have begun to join or incline toward, that has been one of the factors prompting Washington to agree to new talks with the Soviet Union.

I would also like to say that the anti-war movement -- and, indeed, the very course of events itself -- has served to put many prominent scholars and public and state figures, both in Western Europe and within the United States, into a more sober frame of mind. Judging by quite a number of things that have been said by, among others, such figures as Averill Harriman, Marshall Shulman, and George Kennan, a reevaluation of political values is going on among figures of this caliber. Realism is beginning to predominate over illusions, among them the illusions of attaining military superiority over the Soviet Union, and illusions regarding survival after a nuclear conflict. Yet, until recently, these illusions were rather widespread among Americans and bourgeois propaganda did all it could to feed and support them in an attempt to justify the ruling circles' course toward accumulating nuclear armaments and toward material preparations for war.

[Lomeyko] At the same time, an alarmed international public is pointing out, not only the danger of an arms race which is pushing mankind to the brink of the nuclear abyss, but also the amorality and danger of a militarist policy. The arms race and the militarization of thought actually create a nutritive medium for the most right-wing, misanthropic attitudes, theories, arguments, and ultimately, policies.

[Charikov] Such as neofascism, for example.

International Fascism

[Lomeyko] Yes, and you are absolutely right. Incidentally, this was also discussed at the session of the UN General Assembly which has just ended. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution on measures that should be taken against Nazi, fascist, and neofascist activity and all other forms of totalitarian ideology and practice based on racial intolerance, hatred, and terror. The resolution calls on all states to take measures to ban or restrain the activities of those who are implementing the above-mentioned ideology in practice, including measures to punish under the law any dissemination of fascist, neofascist, or racist ideas and war propaganda.

If one takes into account where these ideas are lurking, and who is supporting the domestic or foreign Bormans, Eichmanns, and Mengeles, who is fraternizing with racists, then one can understand the malice of the self-adoring pan-Americanists against the headquarters of the United Nations, where every vote on this question is a moral auto-da-fe for them. By the way, 8 and 9 May, 1985 have been designated by the United Nations as days of celebration of the 40th anniversary of the victory over Nazism and fascism.

[Tsoppi] Moving into the new year we think primarily about the fact that this 40th anniversary which we will be marking, which the whole world will be marking, is the anniversary of not simply any kind of great victory, but of victory over fascism, and this imposes great obligations. This demands great responsibility and vigilance from all who live on earth. Nobody, no future historians, will forgive us if we lose vigilance and stop recognizing and exposing the fascist threat. Yes, fascism was reduced to ashes 40 years ago, but its virus is alive. It is hardy and is spreading throughout the whole world. Today's fascism is multifaceted: There is Chile, where the bloody dictatorship is strengthening the hardening its repressions against the democratic forces; there is El Salvador, where no pseudodemocratic measures are able to justify and rehabilitate the reactionary regime; there is the thoroughly rotten dictatorship on Haiti; there is the racist regime of South Africa, monstrous in its barbarity; and I catch myself thinking that there are not all that many countries that are under the direct rule of fascist rulers on earth. Progress after all is stronger than reaction, as the last 40 years have shown. If these fascist regimes still exist, then they are all doomed, and if they have existed until now, it is thanks to the very generous and interested support of international imperialism. Without that support they would have sunk into oblivion long ago.

However, fascism also nests in those countries of the West which live in conditions that would seem to be full of the prosperity of bourgeois democracy. The inconsolable supporters of Salazar are raising their heads in Portugal; Franco supporters in Spain have not yet given up in desperation. In Italy the ultra-right, pining for the times of Mussolini, carried out a monstrous crime on the eve of Christmas, blowing up a passenger train on the Naples-Bologna line. This is one more step on the way to carrying out that sinister strategy of tension, the aim of which is to oppose the deepening and development of democratic processes in Italy in order to keep it in a position of blind obedience to the United States. In their minds this is primarily a bridgehead, a convenient springboard for aggressive acts against socialist Europe, against Arab countries and the entire Mediterranean region, and against Africa. They are raising their heads today in conditions of a sharp economic crisis. If we believe the results of the latest public opinion poll, already 27 percent of French people share the racist views of Le Pen, the leader of the neofascist National Front. Le Pen, who acquired fame in his youth for brutally killing Vietnamese, and later torturing Algerians, is now leading a frenzied campaign against working immigrants in France, and, to conform with fascist logic, against Communists. He openly declares his hatred for our country and naturally, a boundless and reverential devotion to the United States.

One must also draw attention to the fact that in West Germany, also, the brown shades of the past that is cursed by Germans have again begun to be glimpsed in the floodlights of mass propaganda. The voices of revanchists, who dream out loud about the borders of the Third Reich, resound more and more shrilly today. There are endless rallies and meetings of all kinds of regional associations and unions of exiles. I was in Poland this year and peasants living on the banks of the Oder and Neisse showed me letters that they had received from West Germany. These letters contain direct threats: We will return soon and will once more become masters of our soil which you, a Pole, took away from us. As though 40 years later it would be possible not to master and fully understand the main lesson of that terrible war: Beware of everything that can breach peace; do not sow the seeds of hostility between peoples; do not try to dictate your will to others; and carefully preserve what has been won at such a high and dear price!

[Charikov] Well, comrades. permit me to end our program. Goodbye, and all the best to you.

PRAVDA REVIEW OF WEEK'S INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

23 December

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[Boris Averchenko "International Review"]

[Excerpts] There is only a week to go to the New Year festivities. The last leaf on the calendar will go, and yet another year will recede into the past, its many memorable events becoming part of history. The most important among them are the tireless, purposeful actions of the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community in the struggle to avert nuclear war and strengthen peace.

The outgoing year has been difficult and alarming. Aggressive militarist circles, primarily in the United States, determined to attain military superiority and thus to be able to dictate their will to others, fuel tension in the world in every possible way. True to its Leninist peace-loving foreign policy course, the land of the soviets did everything possible to erect a barrier in the path of military adventures and to save the world from a nuclear conflagration. Our motherland's unswerving loyalty to the cause of peace and its profound concern for the future of mankind have won it the appreciation and gratitude of millions of people across the earth.

Today also, as they prepare to celebrate the arrival of the New Year, which is always an emotional occasion, people are wondering what the coming year will be like, how it will affect them personally, what joys and concerns it will bring. They want it to be peaceful and tranquil and bring the happiness of creative labor. The peoples are pinning their dreams and hopes for a happy future on real socialism, its strengthening might and prestige, and its unbending determination to remove the danger of war.

Strong in Unity

Each passing year produces new evidence of the future strengthening of the world socialist system. Gathered in the close-knit, united family of fraternal peoples, the socialist community countries are successfully implementing large-scale creative plans. This is assisted by their strengthening ideological unity, their all-around cooperation in various spheres of the economy, science, and culture, their mutual assistance, and the pooling of efforts.

In the current 5-year plan the community countries have considerably increased their economic, scientific, and technical potential. It is indicative that the rate of increase of their combined national income in the past 2 years was 50 percent above that of the beginning of the 5-year plan, as was noted at the 39th CEMA session in Havana. In the year now ending the fraternal countries have taken another significant step forward in the development of their economies.

The dynamic development of the community states' economies has led to an increase in their population's real incomes. All these successes demonstrate convincingly the advantages of the new social system over the capitalist world, which is constantly in the grip of crises and contradictions.

The ruling communist and workers parties' central committee plenums and the sessions of the supreme organs of people's power, traditionally held on the eve of the New Year, were important events in the socialist community's life. They were devoted to discussing the preliminary results of the current year's work and to defining the new tasks which will have to be implemented in the coming, final year of the 5-year plan.

A characteristic feature of the forums held was that their participants' attention was focused on questions of the practical implementation of the common strategic program for the main avenues of collaboration and deepening of socialist economic integration which was drawn up at the CEMA economic summit conference in Moscow. The community countries discussed and drew up their national economic plans and budgets in close accordance with the decisions of that historic conference and with extensive division of labor within the CEMA framework. Indubitably all this will promote fraternal states' further socioeconomic development and the unfolding of a qualitatively new stage of economic cooperation and socialist integration.

The community countries have embarked on an important period of preparations for and the holding of the Marxist-Leninist parties' regular congresses. The 40th anniversary of the great victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism is drawing near. The working people are preparing to mark these glorious events with new achievements.

The Main Concern Is To Preserve Peace

Lasting world peace! These simple, meaningful words reflect the cherished dreams of all mankind. The most crucial task today, which takes priority over all others, is to vindicate the peoples' hopes and remove the threat of nuclear war which hangs over the world. In unity with the socialist community states, the Soviet Union has done and will continue to do everything in its power to improve the world's political climate and to prevent nuclear catastrophe.

The CPSU and the Soviet state, the other fraternal parties, and the socialist countries attach paramount importance to the expansion and strengthening of ties among communist parties, to exchanges of views among them, and to the maintenance and development of political dialogue among states to discuss the most crucial international problems. This week provides new proof of this lively foreign policy activity.

At the beginning of the week a conversation was held in the Kremlin between K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee and chairman of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council. The meeting, held in an atmosphere of cordiality and complete mutual understanding, marked a new step forward in strengthening the friendly relations between the USSR and Ethiopia and reflected their united views on major questions of the contemporary international situation.

Multifaceted ties, backed by the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, are developing successfully between the two countries. The agreement signed recently on the development of cooperation between the CPSU and the WPE is of great significance for the strengthening of these relations.

Soviet people have received the news of the terrible ordeal being experienced by the Ethiopian people as a consequence of the prolonged drought with heartfelt sympathy, and they will continue to do what they can to help and support them in overcoming the consequences of the disaster and building a new life. On behalf of his country's people and leadership, Mengistu Haile Mariam expressed profound gratitude for this help.

During the meeting the need was emphasized to further unite and step up the efforts of all peace-loving forces to rebuff imperialist intrigues, avert nuclear war, and strengthen world peace. In this context, declaring Africa a nuclear-free zone would be of great significance. The Ethiopian leader expressed wholehearted support for the Soviet Union's initiatives on preventing the militarization of space and on the entire range of questions connected with nuclear disarmament, which accord with the peoples' interests.

Talks were held this week between a CPSU delegation headed by K.U. Chernenko and a Japanese Communist Party [JCP] delegation headed by K. Miyamoto, chairman of the JCP Central Committee. They were held in a constructive spirit and an atmosphere of comradely mutual understanding, and they revealed unanimity between the two parties as regards the urgent need to strive for the adoption of radical measures aimed at preventing nuclear war and achieving the complete banning and destruction of nuclear weapons. Furthermore, both parties recognize the importance of implementing steps to assist progress toward this aim, including the prevention of the militarization of space. Cooperation between the CPSU and the JCP in the areas mentioned could, despite existing differences on certain questions, prove a valuable contribution to the mobilization of world public opinion and of all peace-loving forces to the struggle to resolve these historic tasks.

The official visit of D. Mintoff, prime minister of the Republic of Malta, to our country at the invitation of the Soviet Government was a notable event in international life. Soviet-Maltese talks were held, during which readiness was expressed to continue and deepen political dialogue in the interests of ensuring stable relations between the two countries and strengthening European and international security.

On 19 December the Maltese leader was received by K.U. Chernenko. During their conversation the closeness or identity of the sides' views on problems of mutual interest was confirmed. Both Malta, located in the very center of the Mediterranean, where tension is kept high through the actions of the United States and its allies, and the Soviet Union advocate that this major area be transformed into a zone of lasting peace and cooperation.

The withdrawal of ships carrying nuclear weapons from the Mediterranean and the renunciation of the siting of these weapons on the territory of non-nuclear Mediterranean countries would be of great significance in this connection.

The visit to Britain of a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.S. Gorbachev, member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union Foreign Affairs Commission, attracted widespread international public interest. The delegation had meetings with the country's leaders, parliamentarians, and prominent political and public figures, as well as representatives of industry and trade. The exchange of views was businesslike and frank. Both sides expressed concern at the increased tension in the world. Differing in their assessment of the causes of this tension, the sides expressed themselves in favor of establishing a fruitful East-West dialogue.

The Soviet Union and Britain play prominent roles in the international arena. Understandably, in the current complex world situation great importance attaches to the establishment of a certain degree of mutual understanding between them and to their attitudes toward the task of reducing the threat of nuclear war and strengthening European and international security. Our country's stance has always been clear and principled. The Soviet people sincerely want to have good-neighborly relations with Britain and to cooperate with it on the basis of equality and mutual advantage. Such cooperation could contribute to an improvement of the situation in Europe and the world.

The upcoming new Soviet-American talks on the whole range of questions pertaining to nuclear and space arms continued this week to be at the focus of attention of political observers and the world public at large. Of special, key importance here is the prevention of the militarization of space. Every thinking person understands that, unless the space arms race is stopped in time, it is unrealistic to hope for an end to the nuclear arms race. The Soviet Union's line is precise and definite. It is ready, on all these questions, to seek and elaborate the most radical solutions. Now a great deal will depend on whether Washington adopts an honest and constructive approach to these talks, K.U. Chernenko said at the meeting with the Maltese leader. The Soviet Union will do its share.

An increasing number of senior government officials, parliamentarians, scientists, and party and public organization leaders are declaring that the door must be firmly shut on weapons in space and new twists in the arms race prevented. "We say 'no' to the militarization of space," President F. Mitterrand of France has said. "Dialogue must be started on this question with the two biggest powers. France's position will be directed toward renunciation of the militarization of space." Millions of people of all persuasions, ages, and professions taking part in the antiwar movement resolutely protest against Washington's preparations for "star wars."

Our country does not halt its struggle to curb the arms race and prevent war for a single day. The Soviet people ardently approve and support this positive foreign policy activity. Bidding farewell to 1984, they look to their future with confidence. This confidence stems from a class analysis of events taking place in the world and a comprehensive assessment of the correlation of forces in the international arena.

30 December

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[Yuriy Zhukov "International Review"]

[Text] The last days of the year 1984, a difficult, complex year which has abounded with acute political situations, are drawing to a close. We are on the threshold of a new year that will be rich in memorable dates which will forcefully remind everyone about the instructive lessons of history and which will prompt them to ponder the future.

There will be the 40th anniversary of the victory over fascism. There will also be the 40th anniversary of the United Nations upon whose establishment mankind pinned its passionate hopes that the horrors of world wars would not be repeated. There will be the 40th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki which alarmed all sober-minded people. There will be the 10th anniversary of the All-European Conference in Helsinki with its charter for peace and cooperation on our continent. There is something to contemplate and something from which to derive lessons, while continuing the dogged battle for a better future for every individual.

Peace Offensive

There is something deeply symbolic and joyously moving and encouraging in the fact that this December has been marked by a new upsurge of the great peace offensive which the Soviet Union is waging with the unflagging application of all its creative strength, together with the fraternal socialist states, the peoples of the developing countries, and with all peace-loving forces of the earth.

It will be recalled that on the first day of January this year in answer to the question as to what would the coming year of 1984 be like, PRAVDA wrote: "It will inevitably be a year of acute political struggle between the forces of peace and the forces of war. As for the Soviet Union, our intentions and plans are of crystal purity. They are defined by the decisions of the 26th congress of our party and of its Central Committee plenums and they are being implemented by the harmonious efforts of the whole people who are imbued with firm determination to uphold peace."

That has been the case. In the economic sphere, higher indicators were achieved in the USSR in 1984 than were laid down by the plan. In the foreign policy sphere, very important new initiatives have been drawn up and placed on the agenda of the world community; the essence of these was formulated as follows by the leader of our party and state, Comrade K.U. Chernenko: "We are talking about a problem that, one may say, overshadows all others: How to avert the threat of nuclear war, find a way to halt the arms race, and create the kind of situation in the world such that the people are not afraid for the future.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's talks and conversations held in the previous week with Mengistu Haile Mariam, leader of Socialist Ethiopia, with D. Mintoff, prime minister of the Republic of Malta, and with a delegation of the Japan Communist Party, [JCP], headed by JCP Central Committee Chairman K. Miyamoto; the visit to Great Britain by a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by Comrade M.S. Gorbachev; the official visit to Turkey this week by N.A. Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, which ended in the signing of a number of agreements; the talks held in Beijing by I.V. Arkhipov, his first deputy, during which important documents were signed which are designed to promote the further development of mutually advantageous economic, trade, scientific, and technical links between the USSR and China -- all these and many other political acts convincingly show again and again the very broad scale and great efficacy of the Soviet Union's energetic actions in the world arena along all avenues of politics and economics.

Reports coming in this week from fraternal socialist countries where, like here at home, the results of the year are being summed up, expressively confirm that the economic summit conference in CEMA member-states held last summer was a powerful stimulus for intensifying the joint struggle for peace, prosperity, and the flourishing of the fraternal peoples. Over the last 15 years alone, these countries have essentially doubled the volume of industrial production whereas the capitalist world has increased its volume of production by only a little over one-third.

A session of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact member-states will be held in mid-January in Sofia and these states will collectively make a new contribution to the matter of consolidating peace.

The force of the example set by the socialist states is becoming increasingly attractive for countries whose peoples have thrown off the colonial yoke and who are seeking the path of independent development. However much resourcefulness the chronic liars from the bourgeois mass media in the United States may display when seeking to depict the struggle for national liberation as "terrorism" waged by an imaginary system of "Soviet agents," they cannot reverse the wheel of history.

The results of the 39th session of the UN General Assembly which has just ended and which adopted more than 60 decisions aimed at ending the arms race, expressively confirmed that the United States' refusal to come to terms with reality is fraught with dangerous isolation for the United States When trying to obstruct the adoption of these resolutions, the U.S. diplomats were able to rely only on those allies closest to the United States and then, not always. Representatives of the United States and its allies voted against 28 resolutions, but they were nevertheless adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes, and the U.S. delegation found itself voting totally alone against the adoption of some 10 resolutions.

Failure of an Impracticable Scheme

No, the New Year holiday in Washington will not be a merry affair this time. Although the number of press conferences, interviews, and briefings for journalists by high-ranking personages being organized by the White House, the Pentagon, and the State Department is increasing with incredible speed, their studied optimism in assessing the results they have achieved does not convince anyone.

Facts are stubborn things. These gentlemen will not be able to evade reality which shows cogently that the calculations, dictated by truly incredible self-assurance and utter ignorance of reality, that the USSR and the other socialist countries will capitulate to the United States and to NATO if "pressure is brought to bear" on them, have failed totally.

For a long time the United States' NATO allies, bowing to "Atlantic discipline" maintained a constantly negative political course dictated from Washington. However, the further they have gone, the more difficult they have found it to pursue the kind of policy which inflicts growing damage on them. They realize full well that it is simply impossible to isolate the mighty community of socialist countries and such a great power as the USSR. They have seen for themselves that the unrealistic course imposed upon them by the United States increasingly weakens them the further they pursue it. They have seen for themselves that the Soviet people have strong nerves and that they will be able to calmly bide their time until life forces the west to renounce its impracticable scheme of reversing the wheel of history. Gradually, one by one, the allies of the United States are beginning to seek a way out of that impasse into which they have been led by Washington's martinetish [soldafonskiy] policy.

The U.S. Administration's ambitious schemes to fence the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries off from the rest of the world by a wall of confrontation have proved their utter untenability. Business visits have been made to Moscow by a whole series of leaders of NATO member-countries, one after another: presidents, prime ministers, and foreign minsiters. Numerous invitations have been made to our leaders to visit their countries. The exchange of parliamentary delegations has sharply increased and the level at which these exchanges take place has risen.

The volume of trade between the industrially developed capitalist countries and the USSR has begun to increase again: In 1983 it reached R38.4 billion which is 30.1 percent of the Soviet Union's foreign trade commodity turnover (in 1979 the volume of our trade with these countries stood at R25.7 billion). Scientific and cultural exchange is being reestablished although many artificially created obstacles still persist in these fields.

Even raising the question about a possible return to normal international relations apparently does not go down very well with Washington's most bellicost circles. In any case, Defense Secretary C. Weinberger and other representatives of the Pentagon are trying again and again to hamper this by brandishing the bugbear of the notorious "Soviet threat."

Even the following episode is indicative. At a routine press conference Weinberger was fed a patently provocative question which had certainly been prepared in advance. "Information (What information? From where? -- Yu. Zh.) has now appeared in the West about the Soviet doctrine of warfare which envisages the capuure (!) of Western Europe in the span of approximately 1 week... . Does it not seem to you that the existing circumstances in the strategic sphere dicate a substantial acceleration of the strategic defense program and of the MX program in response (!) to these external factors?" (Let me clarify these jargon expressions which are current in the Pentagon: "Strategic defense program" means prepartion for war in space and from space toward the earth; "MX program" is the assembly of new superpowerful intercontinental ballistic missiles each armed with 10 nuclear warheads).

Well, so what did Weinberger say in response? Did he reject the wild fabrication about the mythical "Soviet doctrine of capturing Western Europe"? Did he enquire as to where the unscrupulous reporter had come by this lame duck? Did he assail the reporter? Nothing of the kind! The defense secretary immediately blurted out:

"We consider the MX program and the strategic defense initiative as vitally important elements of the President's program and we have explained this to everyone (?) and they have been taken into account (!) in the budget."

Pay particular attention to the defense secretary's words about the fact that these new means for the superarmament of the United States have already "been taken into account in the budget." This is not an empty phrase. The Pentagon's application for fiscal 1986 which is currently being finalized envisages that it will obtain $313.7 billion from the budget, while the figure will be $362.6 billion in 1987 and $411 billion in 1988.

What Next

As is known, the White House has been forced to some degree to come to terms with the protests by the American people who are demanding work rather than bombs and missiles, and with the wishes of its own allies which are alarmed by the consequences of the American policy of confronation. The U.S. Administration has accepted the proposal by the Soviet leadership concerning the holding of new talks on the whole range of interconnected issues regarding the nonmilitarization of space and the reducation of nuclear arms.

The question concerning the holding of such talks will be discussed 7-8 January in Geneva where Comrade A.A. Gromyko will meet with U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz. The news of this meeting was unanimously welcomed everywhere. The world public expects a positive result from such a meeting, taking account of the fact that a good basis for an accord is provided by the new Soviet proposals formulated in a whole series of statements by Comrade K.U. Chernenko in recent months. However, at the same time the peace-loving public does not entertain the unjustified illusions which are being propagated in the West by the bourgeois news media for patently propagandist purposes.

The USSR's constructive proposals accord with the aspirations of all people who long for a lasting peace. They are dictated by a sincere concern for the ending of the arms race, for the strengthening of international security, and for the rectification of our relations with the United States. As for the United States, its position, as is clear from U.S. press reports, has still not been specified although, as the American press is reporting, "the Reagan administration is now working around the clock preparing for the talks."

At the same time many Americans are disturbed by the widely publicized report that soon after the Geneva meeting of the USSR and U.S. foreign ministers, on 23 January, the United States will launch a space craft with a top secret military mission: It will "suspend" over the USSR at an altitude of 22,500 miles an especially important reconnaissance satellite valued at $300 million. In Washington no secret is made of the fact that the objective of this launch is to show that R. Reagan's administration is continuing the preparations for "star wars" which it does not intend to abandon. So, for instance, J. Reston, political commentator of THE NEW YORK TIMES puts a blunt question to Reagan's administration:

"Why are you in such a hurry? Why not wait for the results of the Shultz-Gromyko talks? When it is a question of people and time, the President is unpredictable. Meanwhile there is no link to connect his words with his deeds."

It is easy to understand the alarm of THE NEW YORK TIMES' commentator. U.S. generals do not conceal the fact that however the situation may shape up during the talks, they intend to continue the arms race which is fraught with catastrophic consequences.

Naturally, such an intention is evoking growing uneasiness among the allies of the United States. President F. Mitterrand of France voiced his adverse attitude to these dangerous schemes extremely frankly just recently: "We say 'no,'" he said. "France's position will be aimed precisely in this direction, that is, in the direction of renouncing the militarization of space."

It looks, however, as if Washington is not displaying any desire to come to terms with such objections. According to the ABC television company, President Reagan, when answering journalists' questions, expressed confidence that he would succeed in "persuading (!) NATO allies of the expediency of the further development of this program."

Thus the situation imperatively requires that the members of the antiwar movement redouble their efforts aimed at ending the nuclear arms race and the preparations for "star wars." The peoples can and must, before it is too late, resolutely rebuff these very dangerous schemes. There can be no doubt that in the very first weeks of the new year, 1985, the members of the antiwar movement will have a weighty say on this score.

TURKATENKO COMMENTS ON U.S. FOREIGN TRADE POLICY

LD301818 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Washington December 30 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

According to the latest official information, the aggregate deficit of the U.S. foreign trade balance for eleven months of 1984 reached 115,400 million dollars, that is an increase of almost 70 per cent on the deficit for 1983. The causes of this growth of the deficit of the foreign trade balance are the unwillingness to take into consideration lawful interests of other countries, the hopeless staking of the United States on dictating anything to anyone and on getting at the same time unilateral economic advantage.

In some cases the United States, indeed, manages to achieve this but only when dealing with economically weak partners. As to partners that are economically strong, this stand suffered and in future will continue to suffer ever greater setbacks. And it is not that this simple truth is not realised in the U.S. business circles. It is not for nothing that they started to seek with renewed energy the possibilities for widening trade with "unusual" but major, powerful trading partners. This refers to the Soviet Union not in the least. The USSR is actually an unlimited potential as far as trade exchange goes, the TASS correspondent was told by president of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council, prominent businessman James Giffen.

We cannot boast now of somewhat significant long-term successes in the sphere of Soviet-American trade, James Giffen said. Relying on the striving in the U.S. business circles for the widening of this trade we, however, are working energetically to place stagnant [as received] trade with the USSR on a durable and stable basis. But there exist substantial obstacles to this. This refers above all to the fact that in accordance with U.S. legislation and because of persisting complex political situation, the most favoured nation-treatment has not been applied to the USSR. This situation, naturally, leads to instability in commercial relations between the USSR and the USA since the United States' Soviet partners, and U.S. companies are never sure if it is possible to conclude large mutually advantageous contracts. Moreover, it is impossible to be confident even if the U.S. side will be able to fulfill the contracts signed. A considerable bitter and wasteful experience has, regrettably, been accumulated. Suffice it to recall the contracts for grain deliveries to the USSR broken off by the U.S. side when the Carter administration was in office, the contracts on deliveries of equipment that were abrogated first by the Carter administration and later by the present administration, as a result of which American farmers and, for instance, the "Caterpillar" corporation as well as U.S. firms affiliated to the national machine-tool-builders association had major losses.

The striving of the U.S. business circles to widen trade with the USSR is reflected in Washington's consent to the holding in Moscow on January 8-10 a meeting of a working group of experts of the USSR and the USA in the framework of a long-term Soviet-American agreement that was extended for another ten years. Report on this meeting evoked considerable hopes in the U.S. business circles. Such a meeting has not been held since 1978 But how far these hopes are justified? This question, naturally, remains open. Many in the USA have been dejected by a recent statement of Deputy Undersecretary for International Trade Wethington that the administration is not going to revise its policy in the sphere of political and strategic control over trade with the USSR. He made it plain that the administration views the possibilities of widening trade with the USSR only as a street with one-way traffic in favour of the USA. It is meant that only in this case the administration will be issuing to U.S. companies licences to the export of goods to the USSR. And neither Olin Wethington nor any other representative of the administration deemed it necessary to specify if Washington is going to abrogate or at least to lessen the existing draconic restrictions on the import of Soviet goods into the United States.

The word "draconic" can be confirmed if only by such fact: when metal-cutting tools are imported by the United States from countries to which the most-favoured nation treatment is applied the customs duty is 6-10 per cent. The customs duty on such machine-tools from the USSR is 30-45 per cent. As far as electric motors go, and this type of Soviet equipment, by the way, is regarded by many specialists in the USA as to be among the best in the world, the customs duties are, respectively, 5 and 35 per cent. The customs duties for ballbearings for the USSR are six times greater, for oil -- 2-4 times greater, for various chemicals -- six times greater and so on. Openly political considerations are also applied in importing goods from the USSR.

It is openly declared in Washington that the United States intends to continue exerting economic pressure on the USSR, will continue trying to impose its terms on the USSR. At the same time, ever more intensive measures are taken to compel the United States' West European allies and Japan to curtail trade with the USSR. Nevertheless, this trade continues to develop and, naturally, on mutually advantageous terms. There is, so far, no complete data for 1984. So let us turn to data for 1983.

The volume of the Soviet Union's trade with West European countries rose by 6.4 per cent to reach over 31,000 million roubles or 82 per cent of the Soviet Union's trade turnover with industrialised capitalist states. Meanwhile, the volume of trade between the USSR and the USA because of Washington's persistent striving to impose its terms was vacillating and actually not growing.

The world is large. Contrary to the belief prevailing in Washington's "corridors of power" that the sun and the entire life of the international community revolves around Washington and its dreams, real life goes on.

As to the Soviet Union, its stand with regard to problems of Soviet-American trade is clearly expressed in a report on the meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee published in PRAVDA on December 6, 1984. The Soviet leadership, the report says, has understanding for the interest of the United States business circles in normalising the relations with the Soviet Union. The USSR is for good relations with the USA on the basis of equality, equal respect and taking into consideration each other's lawful interests, for the development of mutually advantageous commercial, economic and other ties for which it is necessary to remove artificial roadblocks placed in their way.

LEVIN VIEWS TIES WITH NEW CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

LD291520 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Viktor Levin commentary]

[Excerpts] As usual on Saturdays, we acquaint you, comrades, with replies to your letters about the international situation. At the microphone is commentator Viktor Levin:

Pavel Osipovich Tarabrin, from Ufa, asks what the Soviet Government is doing about having Alaska returned to our country. This question often arises, but it is caused by a misunderstanding. Alaska was sold by the Tsarist government to the United States under existing rules, so there is nothing to talk about.

Vasiliy Dormodontovich Solomenko, from Moscow, asks: How are Soviet-Canadian relations taking shape after the change of government in Canada? Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, in a cable to Comrade Tikhonov, expressed his intention of encouraging bilateral cooperation on the basis of mutual benefit, and fostering a continuation of political dialogue between the two countries at a high level. We value this intention, and for our part are ready to develop stable relations of mutually beneficial cooperation.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ARKHIPOV VISIT TO PRC

Agreements Signed

PM311129 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Signing of Documents"]

[Text] Beijing December 29 TASS -- Soviet-Chinese documents were signed today in the building of the Chinese National People's Congress -- an agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the PRC on economic and technical cooperation, an agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the PRC on scientific-technical cooperation and an agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the PRC on the establishment of a Soviet-Chinese commission on economic, trade and scientific-technical cooperation. The documents were signed by First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Ivan Arkhipov and Deputy Premier of the State Council of the PRC Yao Yilin. Qian Qichen, vice minister of foreign affairs, Jia Shi, PRC vice minister of foreign economic relations, and I.S. Shcherbakov, USSR ambassador to the PRC were also present at the signing ceremony.

Beijing Reception Held

PM311143 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS reports: "Stay in Beijing"]

[Text] Beijing, December 29 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, Chairman of the National People's Congress Peng Zhen today received First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Ivan Arkhipov, on a visit here at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Positive importance of the further development of cooperation between the USSR and the PRC in the field of economy, trade, science and engineering was noted during the conversation. The sides touched on some issues of inter-state relations. The USSR's ambassador to China, Ilya Shcherbakov, on the same day held a reception on the occasion of the completion of Ivan Arkhipov's visit to China.

The speakers, Ivan Arkhipov and alternate member of the Political Bureau, member of the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee, Deputy Premier of the State Council of the PRC Yao Yilin expressed satisfaction with the talks, as a result of which the sides signed several Soviet-Chinese documents designed to facilitate the further development of mutually beneficial economic, trade, scientific and technical ties between the two countries.

The implementation of these accords will facilitate economic construction, the raising of living standards in both countries, and the establishment of a favourable atmosphere for deepening mutual understanding and trust between our two countries, Ivan Arkhipov pointed out. The positive experience of the talks opens additional prospects for a further development of Soviet-Chinese relations. He stressed that an improvement of relations between the USSR and the PRC would benefit the interests of our two countries and peoples, would help improve the international situation on the whole.

Yao Yilin said that the visit by the first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers to the PRC was successful, and the talks fruitful. He pointed out that the talks and meetings in Beijing will be of great importance for the consolidation of mutual understanding and development of Soviet-Chinese relations and facilitate the normalization of relations between the two countries. Yao Yilin expressed the hope that both sides will apply further effort to raise economic relations between the USSR and the PRC to a new level. Present at the reception were Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of the PRC Qian Qichen, Deputy Minister for External Economic Relations and Foreign Trade Jia Shi, representatives of other Chinese departments.

Visit Reviewed

LD301246 Moscow TASS in English 1237 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Beijing December 29 TASS -- Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, paid a visit to China from December 21-29 at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Ivan Arkhipov and Yao Yilin, deputy premier of the PRC State Council, had talks, at which they discussed the condition of and prospects for trade, economic, scientific and technical contacts between the two countries.

Ivan Arkhipov and Yao Yilin signed agreements between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the PRC on economic and technical cooperation on scientific and technical cooperation, and on the establishment of a Soviet-Chinese commission for economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation. The sides agreed that it was desirable to conclude a long-term trade agreement between the two countries for 1986-1990 and also agreed in this connection to conduct in the first half of 1985 preparatory work for the signing of that agreement.

The sides also examined in a positive light at the talks questions of signing a plan for cultural cooperation, of expanding scientific and technical exchanges, exchanges of students and trainees, contacts between the academies of sciences of the two countries and some other areas of state-to-state relations. During Ivan Arkhipov's visit to China he was received by Zhao Ziyang, premier of the PRC State Council. Ivan Arkhipov had meetings with some other Chinese leaders.

The Soviet delegation went out to the cities of Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Wuhan, and had meetings with representatives of the local bodies of government, industries and offices.

On behalf of the Government of the USSR, Ivan Arkhipov extended the invitation to the deputy premier of the PRC State Council to pay a return visit to the USSR in 1985. The invitation was accepted with gratitude by the Chinese side.

Today Ivan Arkhipov and the delegation led by him left Beijing for Moscow. At Beijing airport they were seen off by Yao Yilin, Qian Qichen, deputy minister of foreign affairs, other officials, and also by the Soviet Union's ambassador to the PRC, Ilya Shcherbakov, and by the heads of the diplomatic missions of socialist countries accredited in Beijing.

Arkhipov Returns to Moscow

PM311224 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Return From Moscow"]

[Text] Comrade Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, returned to Moscow 29 December. He had been in the PRC at the invitation of the PRC Government. He was met at the airport by Comrade Marchuk and Talyzin, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers; M.A. Sergeychik, chairman of the State Committee for foreign Economic Relations; GOKO Zhurarlev, first deputy minister of foreign trade; M.S. Kapitsa, USSR deputy foreign minister; and Yang Shouzhang, PRC ambassador to the USSR.

U.S. SR-71 INTRUDES INTO DPRK AIRSPACE

LD291252 Moscow TASS in English 1239 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Pyongyang December 29 TASS -- The KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY (KCNA) reports that a U.S. SR-71 reconnaissance plane intruded into the air space of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to the east of Kosong on December 28. Several minutes later it reappeared over the republic's territorial waters in the Yellow Sea area.

Last year alone, the news agency stresses, U.S. reconnaissance aircraft intruded into the DPRK's air space more than 170 times.

Those provocative actions, KCNA points out, constitute none other than an overt encroachment upon the DPRK's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as a breach of the armistice agreement, and as attempts at aggravating the situation in the Korean peninsula. The entire responsibility for those actions rests with the U.S. ruling circles.

IZVESTIYA ON SOVIET-JAPANESE BUSINESS TALKS

PM281533 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent K. Rashidov dispatch: "Conditions for Development of Ties Exist"]

[Text] Tokyo -- The desire to expand Soviet-Japanese trade and economic ties was expressed by participants in the ninth conference of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet Economic Cooperation Committees which ended 14 December in Tokyo. This is stated in the joint communique that was adopted.

The document notes that the existence of considerable economic potential in both countries, the mutual complementarity of their economic structures, and their geographical proximity create favorable conditions for the further development of trade and economic relations. The representatives of Japanese business circles and members of the Soviet delegation acknowledged the need to strive to eliminate obstacles restricting these ties.

There was a broad exchange of views on the prospects for the development of economic relations and a number of specific proposals and measures were formulated at the 3-day conference. These proposals and measures related to questions of cooperation in the field of the timber and chemical industry, transport, construction materials production, nonferrous metallurgy, and other sectors.

Expressing the Japanese delegation's view, its head, H. Anzai, stressed that the conference took place in a constructive spirit and yielded positive results. USSR Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade V.N. Sushkov noted that the Soviet side has always stood and continues to stand for the implementation of extensive, diverse, and mutually advantageous business cooperation with Japan designed to promote a general improvement in bilateral good-neighborly relations.

It was agreed that the next conference of the Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet Economic Cooperation Committees will be held in the USSR in 1985.

JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY FOR U.S. ANTI-SPUTNIK SYSTEM

LD281149 Moscow TASS in English 1119 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Tokyo December 28 TASS -- As is reported today by the newspaper NIHON KEIZAI, in reply to the calls of the Reagan administration the Nakasone government reported that it was ready to favourably consider the Pentagon's request for Japanese technology to creat the so-called strategic anti-missile defence system. With it Washington links its wild plans of hitting "a victorious first nuclear strike". The concrete content of the Reagan administration's demands is strictly kept secret. But, according to the newspaper, the United States expects to get documentation on newest Japanese developments in the sphere of laser technology and super-big integrated circuits necessary for creation of space armaments.

Speaking at a press conference in Washington last week the U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger called upon his Far Eastern allies to render the utmost scientific and technological assistance to American "star wars" plans. Washington also intends, the press reported, to deploy on the territory of Japan some very important ground elements of the so-called "anti-Sputnik system". Earlier Tokyo actually expressed consent to join American plans of establishing a big military base in orbit, relying on which, Washington dreams of capturing "domination in outer space". The biggest Japanese industrial corporations with the assistance of the government have already started research work to design one of the manned modules of that station.

Tokyo's zeal sharply contracts with the stand of U.S. NATO West European allies, who, according to NIHON KEIZAI, treat in a cool way the "star wars" programme. These plans of the United States, stressed the competent journal EKONOMISUTO, will lead only to a new extremely dangerous twist in the arms spiral and even more heighten the danger of a global conflict. The Nakasone government, stresses NIHON KEIZAI, will inevitably face in parliament strong protests from the opposition, who demand that an end be put to Japan's involvement in the programme of militarization of outer space.

CHERNENKO WRITES ADDRESS TO VIETNAMESE READERS

LD282356 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1956 GMT 28 Dec 84

["Address to Vietnamese Readers by K.U. Chernenko" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, 28 Dec (TASS) -- The Su That Publishing House has brought out K.U. Chernenko's book "Questions Concerning the Work of the Party and State Apparatus" in Vietnamese. In connection with the publication of the book, the central newspapers have published an address by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko to the Vietnamese readers, which says:

It is with deep satisfaction that I carry out the request to write a foreword to the Vietnamese edition of my book: "Question Concerning the Work of the Party and State Apparatus."

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to convey the most cordial greetings to Vietnamese Communists and all working people of Vietnam, with whom the Soviet people are linked by relations of fraternal friendship and solidarity. The reader will see that the book now being offered embraces a considerable segment of time in the life of the CPSU and the Soviet state. The idea that it is essential to raise the effectiveness of party and state work and to constantly concern oneself with the further improvement of the style and methods of this appear throughout it. Of course, our experience has to be examined through the prism of history. Today, the Soviet people are solving tasks in the further improvement of the society of developed socialism.

The creation of such a society is the result of heroic selfless labor by more than one generation of workers, peasants, and people's intelligentsia and the multifaceted activity of the CPSU.

Today, our party, which has more than 18 million Communists in its ranks, is the recognized political vanguard not only of the working class, but of the entire Soviet people. The CPSU is working out a scientifically-founded strategy for the country's development and is solving large-scale problems of a political, ideological, economic, and governmental nature.

Each stage of our movement forward raises its own problems, and sometimes these are extremely complicated. Here Marxism-Leninism has always been and remains our guiding star. Leninist revolutionary teaching and methodology help our party successfully solve the problems that are raised by life. Soviet Communists check their daily work against Lenin's behests and consider themselves obliged to undeviatingly follow the Leninist style and to assert it in their deeds. One of the main concerns of our party and its Central Committee is to constantly improve the work of the party and to fight for the strengthening of socialist discipline and against bureaucratism and everything that hampers the movement forward.

Many years of experience have convinced us that the success of the matter depends to an enormous extent upon the ideological conviction, businesslike attitude, and moral purity of party and state cadres and on their responsible, harmonious work. Therefore, we pay great attention to the selection, deployment, and education of cadres workers. These have to be people who are devoted to the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, who are -- to use one of Lenin's expressions -- linked to the masses by thousands of threads, people who deeply are aware of the matter at hand, people distinguished by good organizational abilities, persistence, and purposefulness.

We know that the Vietnamese Communists and all the working people of the republic are solving the tasks of socialist reconstruction under conditions that are different from our own. However, we do have common aims and ideals.

The Soviet Union and Vietnam are united by precise class positions and internationalist solidarity, both on issues of socialist and communist construction, and in the solution of the foreign policy tasks of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Vietnam.

We take your affairs, dear Vietnamese friends, close to our hearts; we know of your considerable achievements and the difficulties your country has to overcome. I am convinced that united, Socialist Vietnam will become strong and prosperous. For this you have important prerequisites: rich mineral wealth, a beneficial climate, a large production potential, the help of friends, and of course, first and foremost, the power of the people -- people who are steadfast, who love work, who have cast off the yoke of exploitation forever, and who are deliberately building a new, free life. They have plenty of resolve to defend and to develop the cause of the August revolution, whose 40th victory anniversary will be marked in 1985 by the Soviet people and all friends of Vietnam together with the working people of the SRV.

We share a single appraisal of the present international situation with our Vietnamese comrades. The enemies of peace, democracy, and socialism are whipping up tension. They are carrying on an unrestrained arms race, creating ever more refined military equipment, and resorting to crude blackmail and pressure upon independent states. They are opposed by the will of the peoples for peace, which is gaining in strength, and by the activity, which has embraced the whole world, of the forces that are filled with resolve not to allow mankind to die as a result of nuclear disaster and to defend the rights and freedom of the peoples.

There is now no problem more important than that of preventing a new world war and taking the heat out of the imperialist arms race. History has placed a responsible and noble mission upon socialism: being the vanguard of the struggle for the solution of this exceptionally difficult and important task. We see one of the main prerequisites for solving it successfully in further consolidating the might of the socialist community and in deepening the cooperation and interaction between the fraternal parties and states. Each of our countries is making a large contribution to the great cause of the struggle for peace and progress, and in uniting our efforts, we increase this contribution many times over.

A final point: The book you are about to read was published in our country at the beginning of 1982. At the present time, which is so dynamic, 2 years or more is a considerable time. Life does not stand still; it brings its own adjustments into social development, the practice, style, forms, and methods of party and state work.

For example, much that is new, interesting, and instructive has made its appearance during this time in the work of our party, state, and economic organs in connection with the carrying out in the country of a wide-scale economic experiment with the introduction of the team-contracting method, the organization of agricultural-industrial amalgamations in the countryside, the creation of new territorial and economic complexes, and with the implementation of the school reform.

We have enetered a period of direct preparation for the 27th CPSU Congress. A new edition of the party program will define, with due consideration for the degree of social and economic maturity of the new society that we have reached, new frontiers for the further improvement of developed socialism, the principles of the CPSU's activity, and the place and role of the party in the political system of Soviet society, all of which will be put forward for discussion by the congress.

The CPSU will continue, as always, to devote unremitting attention to the further improvement of the style and methods of work in order to always confidently lead the masses of the working people, who are behing it in the struggle to build a new society.

I wish the Vietnamese people great success in socialist construction; I wish peace and happiness to every family in fraternal Vietnam.

VISITING ROMANIANS MEET WITH SOVIET LEADERS

LD291859 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1659 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] Moscow, 29 Dec (TASS) -- Emil Bobu, member of the Political Executive Committee of the Romanian Communist Party [RCP] Central Committee and secretary of the RCP Central Committee, and Stefan Andrei, candidate member of the Political Executive Committee of the RCP Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, were in Moscow on 27 and 28 December. They held meetings and conversations with Mikhail Gorbachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Konstantin Rusakov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Nikolay Baybakov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of USSR State Planning Committee; and Boris Aristov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR deputy foreign minister.

In the course of the exchange of opinions that took place, there was a discussion of questions of further development of Soviet-Romanian cooperation as well as of several international problems of mutual interest.

Both sides confirmed an invariable desire for strengthening links between the CPSU and RCP, between the USSR and Socialist Republic of Romania, and for expanding cooperation in the political, economic, and other spheres in the spirit of the accords reached at the June 1984 meeting between Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the RCP and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Concern was expressed at the dangerous tension in the international situation and stress was laid on the importance of the proposals, which remain in force, advanced in the Prague political declaration of the Warsaw Pact member-states of 5 January 1983, the joint Moscow statement of 28 June 1983, and the declaration by the economic conference of the CEMA member-countries of 14 June 1984.

Traian Dudas, Socialist Republic of Romania ambassador to the USSR, attended the meetings and conversations, which passed in a businesslike and comradely atmosphere.

BCP'S BOZHINOV RECEIVED BY ALIYEV 26 DEC

PM281445 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Dec 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Questions of Cooperation Examined"]

[Text] On 26 December, G.A. Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received in the Kremlin T. Bozhinov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, who was in the USSR on a brief visit. Questions of Soviet-Bulgarian economic cooperation were examined.

N.V. Talyzin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and V.I. Tikhonov, first deputy minister of the Maritime Fleet, took part in the conversation, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The conversation was also attended by D. Zhulev, Bulgarian ambassador to the USSR.

ROUNDUP OF UK PRESS COMMENT ON GORBACHEV VISIT

PM281311 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Important Contribution to the Consolidation of Security"]

[Text] London -- The London press, politicians, and public figures are emphasizing the great importance of the recent official visit to Britain by the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.S. Gorbachev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Union Foreign Affairs Commission, for the continuation of fruitful discussions on the most topical problems of international life and the further development of Soviet-British relations in all fields. A good foundation has been laid for continuing political dialogue between the two countries: That is the British public's unanimous opinion on the results of the visit.

In their commentaries on the visit, the newspapers are highlighting the report that the head of the Soviet delegation passed on a personal message from K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, to British Prime Minister M. Thatcher, who said that she would give it a "detailed reply."

"The visit to Britain by the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.S. Gorbachev and the talks between the two sides are a very great and positive event, noted Gordon Schaffer, the eminent public figure and winner of the International Lenin Prize "for the consolidation of peace among peoples." It is an indisputable fact, he said, that contacts between politicians of different states are useful and highly important for the solution of extremely urgent international problems. These contacts are necessary primarily with a view to reaching agreement in the vitally important sphere for all countries -- the elimination of the threat of nuclear war looming over mankind, the halting of the arms race, and the reduction of stockpiled arsenals of various types of weapons of mass destruction.

We regard the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit to Britain as a very important event designed not only to promote the development of Soviet-British relations but also to make a substantial contribution to the normalization of the international climate and the consolidation of peace and security in Europe," Cynthia Roberts, secretary of the "Labor Party Members for Peace" organization, has stated. She expressed the hope that the delegation's visit will lend new impetus to the expansion of trade, economic, cultural, and other relations between the two countries. These relations, we are sure, are necessary to the British and Soviet peoples, C. Roberts noted.

In the opinion of an ITV television news program commentator, the Soviet-British talks during the delegation's visit "are assessed in London as a very important turning point in Anglo-Soviet relations." The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit, in the opinion of the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, is of importance because it will make it possible to ease the overall atmosphere of tension.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH stressed that during the talks between M.S. Gorbachev and the British leaders and representatives of the opposition parties, considerable attention was paid to the problem of the militarization of space, which "is causing the United States' Western allies particular anxiety now." The newspaper THE GUARDIAN cited in this connection the statements by Labor Party leader N. Kinnock, who said at a press conference that "Western Europe unanimously rejects space armaments."

Representatives of British business circles welcomed the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit with tremendous interest, unanimously expressing the hope that it would held develop mutually advantageous trade and economic relations between the two countries. "M.S. Gorbachev's words concerning the possibility of increasing the volume of trade turnover between the two countries by 40-50 percent in the very near future were welcomed with visible enthusiasm," a BBC television commentator noted. British foreign trade experts, the newspaper THE TIMES writes, were most encouraged by the opportunities opened up by the broad prospects for developing business relations between the USSR and Britain. THE FINANCIAL TIMES notes that since the meeting between the head of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation and the country's business circles, "British businessmen have been showing new interest in trade partnership with the USSR. The newspaper noted M.S. Gorbachev's criticism of attempts by certain circles to prevent the expansion of these relations. "Applause greeted his words in support of the British companies that have remained loyal to their trading traditions and fulfilled Soviet orders despite threats of sanctions from the United States," THE FINANCIAL TIMES points out.

CHERNYAYEV-LED DELEGATION RETURNS FROM SPAIN

PM281515 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Dec 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading "Return Home"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by A.S. Chernyayev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, returned to Moscow from Madrid on 18 December. It had gone to Spain at the invitation of the leadership of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party [PSOE] to attend the 30th PSOE Congress. The delegation included G.N. Yenukidze, secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, and Yu.I. Zuyev, sector chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department.

SPANISH SOCIALIST LEADERS ENDORSE NATO MEMBERSHIP

LD290844 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2000 GMT 27 Dec 84

[From the "World Today" program presented by Igor Kudrin]

[Text] In Spain, following the 30th congress of the ruling Socialist Party that ended a few days ago, it seems that a new government position, that Spain must remain in the ranks of NATO, has gained the upper hand. Although this idea is the cause of dissatisfaction as far as the majority of Spaniards are concerned -- all recent public opinion polls show this -- the Socialist Party leadership intends to carry out its policy. Here is what Guillermo Galeote, a member of the party executive committee, had to say on this subject. One can struggle for peace, and at the same time defend a pro-Atlantic position. The problems of peace, he said, go beyond the subject of NATO. Spain's exit from the Atlantic alliance could become a factor directed against the policy of peace. That is what he said, and just 2 years ago I heard Galeote -- none other -- say that membership of the North Atlantic bloc was a disgrace for Spain.

One need hardly say that the USA applauds such a policy, while the countries of Western Europe are promising that NATO membership will inevibably speed up Spain's acceptance into the Common Market. Spain has unsuccessfully been trying to join the EEC for many years. Finally, the Western press recently found another argument for a pro-Atlantic move on the part of the country on the Iberian peninsula: NATO, so the argument runs, will help to attract rightist-minded Spanish officers away from involvement in antigovernment plots. So it turns out that this aggressive bloc spells democracy! Well, everyone has his own logic, as they say.

COMMENTARY ON U.S.-SPANISH MILITARY TALKS

LD281224 Moscow in Spanish to Spain 2000 GMT 27 Dec 84

[Yuriy Konstantinov commentary]

[Text] A new round of Spanish-U.S. military negotiations has been held in Washington. On this occasion the joint military committee sessions were chaired by Admiral Angel Liberal Lucini, the Spanish chief of the Defense Staff, who met with U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger, visited several Pentagon military bases, and talked with experts on arms questions. Our observer Yuriy Konstantinov writes:

In no way was this a routine Spanish-U.S. military committee session; in Washington it aroused heightened interest in light of the North Atlantic resolution approved at the 30th Congress of the Spanish Socialist Workers Party [PSOE]. Evidently, the United States believes that following the Socialist Party forum's approval of Spain's membership in the NATO bloc, its integration into the North Atlantic alliance military structure is only a question of time. For this reason, Washington took great pains to court Admiral Angel Liberal Lucini, conferring on him medals of the U.S. Legion.

At the joint committee session a Pentagon representative said with the utmost frankness that Spain should take an active part in the work of all the North Atlantic forums. Like no other, the United States is a firm friend of Spain, wrote THE WASHINGTON POST, and Spain is assigned a special role in NATO. According to the Reagan administration, Spain should substantially strengthen the Mediterranean flank of the North Atlantic alliance. It is believed in the United States that the European predestination of Spain, about which Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez spoke at the PSOE congress, does not respond to constructive international cooperation, but to the strengthening of the North Atlantic community.

The joint committee session also discussed the extension of U.S. military supplies to Spain. Giving way to pressure from Washington and NATO, Spain is forcibly reequipping its army according to North Atlantic standards. As well as the 72 U.S. F-18A fighter-bombers that will be stationed at the Pentagon base near Zaragoza, the United States will supply Spain with tanks, helicopters, surfact-to-air missiles, antitank missiles and electronic military installations. The Air Force modernization program alone will cost Spanish taxpayers $3 billion. Reequipping the Navy, as advocated by the department of Narciso Serra i Serra [minister of defense], will require as much. Never before has Spain shouldered such a heavy burden of military expenditure, and this sacrifice is due to the country's membership of the North Atlantic alliance and the intensification of the arms race.

In urging Spain to make further purchases of U.S. military technology, the White House is promising to lighten the burden of military expenduture of its Spanish partner. This involves granting loans for Spain's defense needs and the purchase by the Pentagon of Spanish military equipment, particularly Aviocar aircraft. It is believed in Washington that by being tied to expensive U.S. military supplies, Madrid will make greater concessions and will agree to the enlargement of U.S. military presence in Spain. Specifically, it is not just a question of reequipping the four Pentagon bases, but also the construction of new bases under the North Atlantic flag. This is how the Reagan administration is building its policy toward NATO member no 16. The new Spanish-U.S. military committee session, which advocated close bilateral military links, falls within the framework of Washington's Pyreneean policy.

FRENCH SCIENTISTS COOPERATE IN COMET EXPERIMENT

LD290956 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Soviet and French scientists are designing devices to trap comet dust to be installed on Soviet orbital stations of the Salyut type. The devices will absorb particles left in outer space when Halley's Comet passes near earth in 1986. The particles will be subsequently brought to earth for detailed study, Soviet researcher Valeriy Barsukov told Radio Moscow. This experiment will contribute to research conducted under the Vega project which envisages the sending of two Soviet interplanetary probes to the comet.

TASS CITES AKEL RESPONSE TO KIPRIANOU STATEMENT

LD231649 Moscow TASS in English 1547 GMT 23 Dec 84

[Text] Nicosia December 23 TASS -- The Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Progressive Party of the Working People of Cyprus (AKEL) discussed at its emergency meeting the statement of Spyros Kiprianou, president of Cyprus and leader of the Democratic Party, on ending cooperation with AKEL. The Politbureau believes that that decision is an untimely and politically unmotivate d action.

A statement released by the Politbureau of the AKEL Central Committee here says that an agreement reached in April 1982 on the establishment of democratic cooperation on the basis of the minimum program became a major political event in the history of the country. It served the interests of both the two parties and all the democratic forces of Cyprus. That explained the enthusiasm with which the people responded to the establishment of democratic cooperation and to its program, and also the attacks on that cooperation by both domestic and external enemies of Cyprus.

The worry caused by democratic cooperation among the imperialist forces of the United States, NATO, West Germany and Britain is public knowledge.

The Politbureau of the AKEL Central Committee is convinced, the statement continues, that the unilateral termination of democratic cooperation in the present-day especially difficult and critical situation over the question of Cyprus is contrary to the interests of the broad unity and cooperation of all the political forces of the country that is so essential today and deals a blow at the interests of the Cypriot people at a crucial turn of their history. The situation emerging as a result is damaging to the struggle of the Cypriot people for a lasting peaceful solution of the Cyprus question and to the political stability, the economic and social progress of the people and the consolidation of the domestic front.

TASS REPORTS ASSASSINATION OF PLO'S AL-QAWASIMI

LD301146 Moscow TASS in English 1134 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Amman December 30 TASS -- According to a report of Jordanian radio and television, Fahd al-Qawasimi, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was assassinated in Amman yesterday by Israeli agents.

King Husayn of Jordan has described the assassination of Fahd Al-Qawasimi as "a criminal and cowardly act by hirelings of the enemy who had expelled him from his birthplace".

Fahd al-Qawasimi who in 1976 was elected the mayor of Hebron, one of the biggest towns in the Israel-captured West Bank of the Jordan, had been accused by the occupiers of engaging in energetic patriotic activities, had been removed from the post and deported to Jordan in 1980. At the recent 17th session of the Palestine National Council, he had been elected a member of the PLO Executive Committee where he was placed at the head of the Department for the Affairs of the Occupied Territories.

A PLO statement circulated here by the Jordanian news agency PETRA says that in the past agents of Israeli special services had repeatedly made attempts on the life of Fahd Al-Qawasimi.

OCTOBER TRADE AGREEMENT WITH YAR RATIFIED

PM281612 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Agreement Ratified"]

[Text] By a decree of 12 December, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has ratified the trade agreement between the USSR Government and the Yemen Arab Republic Government signed in Moscow 10 October 1984.

TASS CITES IRANIAN-IRAQI BATTLE REPORTS

LD301337 Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad December 30 TASS -- According to an Iraqi military spokesman, aircraft of the Iraqi Air Force shot down two Iranian F-4 fighter-bombers during an air combat in Maysan sector on Saturday. A communique issued here by the main military command says that in the past twenty four hours Iraqi Armed Forces delivered strikes at concentrations of enemy troops in various sectors of the front. Aircraft of the Iraqi Air Force flew 149 sorties. It is also reported that in Maysan sector Iraqi artillery shelled Iranian positions, inflicting losses upon the enemy in manpower and materiel.

Nicosia December 30 TASS -- According to a report of the Iranian news agency IRNA, artillery and mortar fire was exchanged along the frontline on Saturday. Mechanised convoys were fired upon in the northern sector of the front, and enemy's weapon emplacements were neutralised. It is also pointed out that Iranian artillery shelled Iraqi engineer structures in the area of the town of Basra.

SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION ENDS CAMEROON VISIT

PM281606 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Completed"]

[Text] Douala, 14 Dec TASS -- The official visit to Cameroon by a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by M.Z. Shakirov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has ended. The delegation was in the country at the invitation of the Republic's parliament. The Soviet parliamentarians were received by President P. Biya. Meetings and talks were held with Cameroon National Assembly President S.T. Muna and other parliamentary leaders and deputies.

The delegation members were familiarized with the Cameroonian people's life and achievements along the path of the consolidation of national independence and economic and social development. The delegation received a warm and friendly reception.

The Soviet and Cameroonian parliamentarians exchanged views on topical international problems and questions of bilateral relations. They stressed that in the present tense international situation, efforts must be aimed at ending the arms race, primarily the nuclear arms race. It was noted that all countries' parliamentarians are called upon to play an important role in the cause of preserving and strengthening peace, developing equal international cooperation, intensifying the struggle against the arms race, and preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

In the course of an exchange of views on questions of Soviet-Cameroonian relations, the two countries' parliamentarians expressed satisfaction at the consolidation of the bonds of friendship between the USSR and Cameroon. They advocated the further development of ties between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Cameroon National Assembly, ties that promote the deepening of mutual understanding and cooperation between the two countries. The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation invited a Cameroon National Assembly delegation to pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

The delegation left today and returned to Moscow. It included USSR Supreme Soviet Deputies V.V. Nikitin, L.P. Shurygin, and G.A. Tsitlidze.

The delegation was met at the airport by G.M. Yegorov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, senior officials of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, other officials, and also Cameroonian Ambassador to the USSR J. Nkengong Monie.

FURTHER ON SOVIET DROUGHT AID TO ETHIOPIA

Recent Aid Detailed

LD292008 Moscow in English to Africa 1700 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] The Soviet Union is rendering assistance to drought-stricken Ethiopia. Now Petr Koshelev, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Ties, speaks about that aid.

[Announcer read] On 25 December, several Soviet aircraft started off for Ethiopia. They carried equipment and materials for a field hospital that included medical equipment, various tools, tents, beds, and many other things. One hundred and fifty Soviet doctors and nurses will work at that hospital. When the Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam made the call for help to the victims of the drought, the Soviet Government immediately sent (?24) helicopters, 12 transport aircraft, and 340 trucks to Ethiopia to carry food, medical drugs, and other essentials to drought-stricken areas.

The Soviet transport has been also carrying people from the regions where the drought effects were the worst, to areas with a more favorable climate. Maintenance of the trucks and aircraft is performed by Soviet specialists. There are more than (?600) of them in Ethiopia. All the transport expenses, including (?pay to) the Soviet specialists, are covered by the Soviet Union. All in all, the Soviet Union's expenditures that have to do with the free, urgent aid to the (?fraternal) people of Ethiopia have exceeded $120 million.

Petr Koshelev goes on to say that, in the near future, the Soviet Union will render some extra assistance to Ethiopia. Most of that aid will go to the people that are being moved to new areas. The aid includes building materials, tents, (?overalls), blankets, household items, etc. All this will help the people to settle in the new areas and start developing them. Besides, Soviet doctors will be sent to those areas so that preventive examinations will be conducted, and tens of thousands of sick Ethiopia evacuated from the drought-stricken zone will be hospitalized.

Ethiopian Leader Praises Aid

LD2302030 Moscow TASS in English 1914 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] Addis Ababa December 30 TASS -- Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, has expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Soviet people who render assistance to the Ethiopian people in their efforts to overcome the aftermath of the prolonged drought. He visited today a base of transport and medical workers sent to Ethiopia on the decision by the Soviet Government.

The USSR, the head of the Ethiopian Government stated, has sided with us from the first years of the revolution. And today when a natural calamity has befallen Ethiopia, the Soviet Union as again extended a helping hand. This if further confirmation of the inviolability of the bonds of friendship existing between the peoples of the two countries. We admire the organization and discipline of Soviet specialists and the care they show, Mengistu Haile Mariam stressed.

MALI AMBASSADOR LEAVES USSR 14 DECEMBER

PM281623 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Dec 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Departure From Moscow"]

[Text] Mali Ambassador to the USSR Djibrilla Maiga left Moscow on 14 December.

SOVIET NAVAL SQUADRON ARRIVES IN CUBA

Squadron Described

LD282144 Moscow TASS in English 2051 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Havana December 28 TASS -- A squadron of Soviet naval ships, comprising the destroyer Otlichnyy, escort ships Zadornyy and Razitelnyy, a diesel submarine and a tanker, commanded by Vice-Admiral V.I. Ryabov, has arrived in Havana port for an official friendly visit.

The Soviet seamen were warmly welcomed by the chief of staff of Cuba's Revolutionary Navy, Captain 1st Rank P. Perera Ruiz.

The ship crews will take part in celebrations marking the Republic of Cuba's national holiday -- Liberation Day, and will familiarize themselves with the life of the Cuban people.

R. Castro Receives Commander

LD301302 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Dec 84

[Text] The official friendly visit to Cuba by a group of Soviet warships commanded by Vice Adm Ryabov is continuing. Yesterday, a delegation of Soviet seamen laid a wreath at the monument to Cuba's national hero, Jose Marti. On the same day, Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, first vice president of the Republic's Councils of State and Ministers, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, received Vice Adm Ryabov. The further development of fraternal relations between the Armed Forces and between the Navies of the two countries were discussed in the course of the talk that took place. Raul Castro conveyed New Year greetings to the Soviet seamen. Vice Adm Ryabov conveyed greetings for the approaching Cuban national holiday, Liberation Day to the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba.

LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS ASSESS USSR TIES

LD300113 Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 29 Dec 84

[Text] In an interview with a Moscow weekly on the threshold of the new year, the presidents of Mexico, Venezuela, and Colombia have expressed satisfaction with the state of relations with the Soviet Union and called for their further development. President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico stressed that his country's relations with the Soviet Union, resting on mutual respect and understanding, had withstood the test of time.

President Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela believes his country has opportunities to develop relations with the Soviet Union to mutual advantage. President Belisario Betancur noted that Soviet technology helped Colombia to advance its energy by the construction of the Ure hydroelectric station.

FURTHER REPORTS ON USTINOV-RELATED ACTIVITIES

PRAVDA Medical Report

PM241537 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Dec 84 First Edition p 2

["Medical Report on the Illness and Cause of Death of Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov"]

[Text] Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, born in 1908, fell ill with pneumonia in late October 1984, which then complicated in the form of sepsis. Subsequently, during the recovery period, signs appeared of the beginning of a rupture due to an atherosclerotic aneurysm of the abdominal aorta. A surgical operation was performed on the aorta based on the vital functions. In the post-operation period malfunctions of the liver, kidneys, and the blood coagulation system appeared. Intensive therapy had no effect. Because of growing insufficiency of the liver and kidneys and of expressed metabolic and dystrophic changes in the organs, death resulted from cardiac arrest at 1935 on 20 December. The post-mortem examination confirmed the diagnosis.

The medical report was signed by Professor Chazov, academician of the USSR Academy of Sciences and Academy of Medical Sciences, chief of the Fourth Main Directorate at the USSR Ministry of Health; Colonel-General of the medical service Komarov, chief of the Central Military Health Administration of the USSR Ministry of Defense; Professors Malinovskiy, Pokrovskiy, Vorobyev, Chuchalin, Kulakov, and Fedorov; Doctor of Medical Sciences Sura; attending Doctor Milashenko; and Professors Krayevskiy and Yu. Postnov.

Sokolov Receives Military Heads

PM281147 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Dec 84 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Meetings at the USSR Defense Ministry"]

[Text] On 24 December USSR Defense Minister Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov received the heads of military delegations from the Warsaw Pact states who had come to Moscow in connection with the death of Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov. The following were present at the reception:

Army General D. Dzhurov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and Bulgarian minister of national defense, head of the Bulgarian military delegation;

Colonel General I. Olah, Hungarian defense minister, head of the Hungarian military delegation;

Army General H. Hoffmann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and GDR minister of national defense, head of the GDR military delegation;

Divisional General J. Uzycki, Polish deputy minister of national defense and chief of the Polish Army General Staff;

Colonel General C. Olteanu, member of the RCP Central Committee Political Executive Committee and Romanian minister of national defense, head of the Romanian military delegation;

Colonel General K. Rusov, CSSR first deputy minister of national defense, head of the CSSR military delegation.

The heads of the delegations expressed profound condolences on the death of D.F. Ustinov, a prominent figure in the Communist Party and the Soviet state, a Leninist and Communist, an ardent patriot and internationalist, and an outstanding military leader.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov expressed profound gratitude to the heads of the military delegations for the respect they showed for D.F. Ustinov's memory and for their condolences.

The following took part in the meeting: Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces; Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General A.I. Gribkov, chief of staff of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces; and Admiral S.S. Turunov.

On the same day USSR Defense Minister Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov received heads of foreign military delegations who had come to Moscow to honor the memory of Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov:

From the SRV -- Army General Le Trong Tan, SRV vice minister of national defense and chief of the Vietnamese People's Army General Staff;

From the PRK -- Deputy Defense Minister Tea Banh;

From the DPRK -- Army General O Chin-u, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo and minister of the DPRK People's Armed Forces;

From Cuba -- Divisional General A. Colome Ibarra, candidate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and first vice minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces;

From Laos -- Lieutenant General (S. Saysongkkhamu), Lao deputy minister of national defense;

From Mongolia -- Lieutenant General C. Purebdorj, a Mongolian first deputy defense minister and chief of the Mongolian People's Army General Staff;

From the SFRY -- Colonel General P. Gracanin, chief of the Yugoslav People's Army General Staff.

Condolences on the death of Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov were also expressed at a reception with USSR Defense Minister Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov by heads of foreign military delegations: Lieutenant General Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee Politburo and Ethiopian minister of national defense; Major General A. Belhouchet, member of the National Liberation Front Party Politburo and deputy minister of national defense of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria; Colonel P.M. Tonha, member of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party Central Committee Politburo and Angolan defense minister; Major General Nazar Muhammad, DRA minister of national defense; Colonel General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, Iraqi minister of state for military affairs; Brigadier General S. Qasim, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen defense minister; Colonel General S. Mabote, member of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party Central Committee Politburo and chief of the Mozambique Armed Forces General Staff; and Corps General M. Talas, first deputy prime minister and defense minister of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov expressed gratitude for the condolences expressed by the heads of the delegations in connection with the death of Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov.

The following took part in the meeting: Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Colonel General N.A. Zotov; and Admiral S.S. Turunov.

Thanks Expressed for Condolences

LD271913 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 27 Dec 84

[Text] Moscow December 27 TASS -- The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. and the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. expressed deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to party, local government and public organizations, collectives of enterprises, departments and organizations, collective and state farms, war and labor veterans, and also to central committees of fraternal parties, governments of socialist and other friendly countries, statesmen and military figures, diplomatic representatives, public organizations and private citizens of foreign countries who sent their condolences in conjunction with the death of member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Minister of Defense of the U.S.S.R., Marshal of the Soviet Union, Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., Dmitriy Ustinov.

Afghan Condolence Message

PM271353 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 84 First Edition p 2

[Text] To the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Council of Ministers of the USSR:

On behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, and Council of Ministers of the DRA and all people of Afghanistan, we express profound sorrow and condolences on the death of Comrade Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politubro, USSR minister of defense, and marshal of the Soviet Union. Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, distinguished state and party personality and great military figure, dedicated all his power and energy to the cause of socialism, consolidation of the defense capabilities of the Soviet Union, and preservation and strengthening of peace in the world. During the difficult years of the Great Patriotic War as national commissar for armaments of the USSR, Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov helped to strengthen the combat capabilities of the Armed Forces of the USSR in its victory over Hitlerite fascism and Japanese militarism.

The prideful life of Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov from an ordinary worker to one of the leaders of his country is a glorious example of honest service to the people's interests, the state of the Soviet Union, and the CPSU.

With the death of Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov the people of Afghanistan have lost a great friend who played a significant role in developing and strengthening fraternal Afghan-Soviet friendship, giving internationalist assistance to the DRA to defend the gains of the revolution, national sovereignty and national independence against foreign aggression by international imperialism, Chinese hegemonism, and the reaction of the region.

Expressing profound respect to the glorious memory of Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, the people of the DRA fully share the mourning of the people of the Soviet Union for this great loss.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers.

North Korean Condolence Message

PM271352 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 84 First Edition p 2

[Text] Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet:

Receiving the sad news that Comrade Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, minister of defense, and Soviet Army marshal, died of illness, I, in the name of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK Government, and the Korean people, and on my own behalf, express deep condolences to you and, through you, to the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Government, the Soviet people, and the bereaved families.

Comrade Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov was a prominent party, state, and military activist of the CPSU and the Soviet state who has struggled to strengthen the Soviet economy and national defense, oppose imperialism, and defend the security of the country and world peace, devoting his all. He has made active efforts to strengthen fraternal friendship and solidarity between the peoples and armies of the two countries of Korea and the Soviet Union.

Although Comrade Dmitiry Fedorovich Ustinov has passed away, his great achievements for the party, state, and people of the Soviet Union will remain forever.

[Signed] Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and president of the DPRK.

SRV Condolence Message

PM271351 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Dec 84 First Edition p 2

[Text] We have learned with boundless grief of the death of Comrade Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, minister of defense, deputy of the Supreme Soviet, Hero of the Soviet Union, Twice Hero of Socialist Labor, and marshal of the Soviet Union.

As a well-known activist of the Communist Party and the state of the Soviet Union, Comrade Ustinov made outstanding contributions to the building of the Soviet Union's economy, the strengthening of its defense capacity, and to the cause of developing the militant solidarity among the armed forces of the fraternal socialist countries, one of the decisive factors in ensuring the peace and security of nations.

A close friend of the Vietnamese people, Comrade Ustinov tirelessly fought for the cause of consolidating the solidarity, all-round cooperation, and unbreakable fraternal friendship between the peoples and Armed Forces of Vietnam and the Soviet Union. He always reserved warm sentiments and extremely valuable support for the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause. Comrade Ustinov's passing is a great loss not only for the Communist Party and the state of the Soviet Union but also for the Communist Party and the people of Vietnam.

On behalf of the Communist Party, the National Assembly, the Government, and the people of Vietnam, may we extend to the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Council of Ministers, and the people of the Soviet Union, as well as the family of Comrade Ustinov, our most profound condolences.

Lao Condolence Message

PM271529 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Dec 84 First Edition p 2

[Text] To the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers

The Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], Supreme People's Assembly, and Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] has received with great sorrow the news of the death of Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

D.F. Ustinov was a prominent figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and an outstanding military leader. He devoted more than 50 years of his life to service of the CPSU and the cause of defending the purity of Marxist-Leninist ideas. He made an important contribution to the construction of the defense industry, the consolidation of the Soviet state's defense capability, and the Soviet Union's great victory in routing Hitlerite fascism during World War II. His services are inseparable from the consolidation of the defense might of the USSR and other socialist community countries. He also made a great contribution to the struggle to preserve peace and international security in Europe and throughout the world. His death is a burdensome loss for the CPSU, the Soviet Government, the entire Soviet people, his Lao friends and comrades in arms, and also Communists throughout the world.

In connection with D.F. Ustinov's death allow us to express profound condolences to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the USSR Council of Ministers, the entire Soviet people, and also the family and dear ones of the deceased, on behalf of the LPRP Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly, the LPDR Council of Ministers, and the entire Lao people.

The LPRP Central Committee, the Supreme People's Assembly, the LPDR Council of Ministers.

DIE WELT: SAKHAROV IN STRICTER ISOLATION

DW311042 Bonn DIE WELT in German 29-30 Dec 84 p 8

[Text] DW Breslau -- Soviet physicist Andrey Sakharov, exiled in Gorkiy, has been so strictly isolated by the authorities that he can no longer maintain contacts with his former institute in Moscow. This is stated by a group of Soviet physicists in a letter published by the literary underground paper OBECNOSC (The Present) of Breslau. The physicists, who call themselves colleagues of Sakharov from the Lebedev Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, in their letter called on the entire world to support Sakharov. They chose the course via Poland because they believe that "the Polish idea is alive beyond Poland's borders."

SCIENTISTS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON VEGA PROJECT

LD281311 Moscow TASS in English 1255 GMT 28 Dec 84

[Text] Moscow December 28 TASS -- The project "Veha" (Venus-Halley's Comet) is a vivid example of international cooperation among scientists in the peaceful exploration of outer space, stated Academician Roald Sagdeyev, director of the Space Research Institute in Moscow. He spoke today at a press conference dealing with the launching of the "Veha-1" and "Veha-2" interplanetary automatic stations on December 15 and 21 for the exploration of planet Venus and Halley's Comet.

Prominent Soviet specialists in the field of space research answered journalists' questions. Academician Sagdeyev recalled that six socialist countries and three West European ones are participating in the project "Veha". It is supposed that not only the direct participants in the project but also specialists of a number of other countries which possess powerful optical and radio telescopes will closely cooperate.

Roald Sagdeyev referred to the designing of the interplanetary station's platform by scientists of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia as an illustration of fruitful cooperation. The station's platform carries instrumentation to track Halley's Comet. Scientists of Hungary, the USSR, and France, he went on to say, have offered a television system which is designed to transmit the pictures of the nucleus of the comet. Austrian-made magnetometers which had performed well on Soviet interplanetary automatic stations "Venus" will also find application in the experiment.

"We are taking part in the space journey to Halley's Comet not alone but among a whole international flotilla," the Soviet scientist said. A "Giotto" spacecraft of the European Space Agency is expected to be launched in summer next year. Two Japanese stations will set out on a space voyage somewhat later. The Soviet "Veha-1" and "Veha-2" stations will become a kind of pilot -- they will help to adjust the flight paths of "Giotto" and of Japanese spacecraft -- and the latter will possibly approach the cometary nucleus still closer. The "Veha" stations themselves are expected to be able to approach the nucleus of the comet to a distance of 10,000 kilometres.

Valeriy Barsukov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Scientists [as received], in answer to journalists' questions, pointed out that new data on the origin of the solar system will be probably obtained during the space expedition. At the same time, he said, one would like to test the now existing sensational hypotheses about possibility of discovery of early forms of biological life at the "periphery" of the solar system.

Vyacheslav Kovtunenko, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, referred to the preparation for and the very launching of the "Veha-1" and "Veha-2" when everything was to be calculated with an accuracy up to a second, as the most responsible stages of the implementation of the current space project. Otherwise, he emphasized, one would have had to wait for an encounter with the comet for another several decades when it will approach the sun again.

BRIEFS

STAVROPOL KRAY SATELLITE TV -- A Moskva type ground relay station, which receives signals from the stationary-orbit Gorizont satellite, has come into use in the remote settlement of Urup in Stavropov Kray. High quality picture of the First Program of All-Union Television can now be received in the settlement. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 19 Dec 84 LD]